

THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

29 DECEMBER 1955

VOL 208

NO. 26

ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

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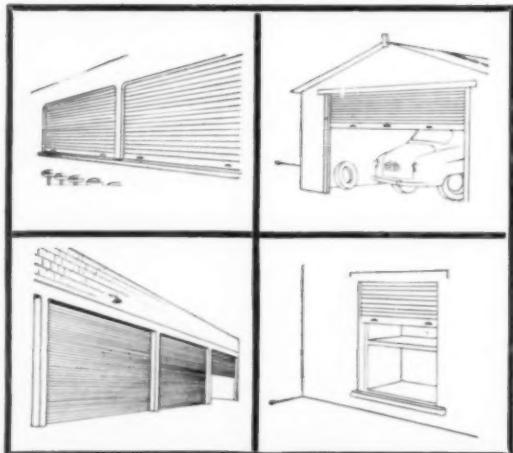
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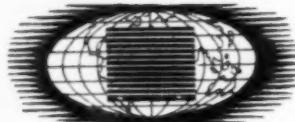
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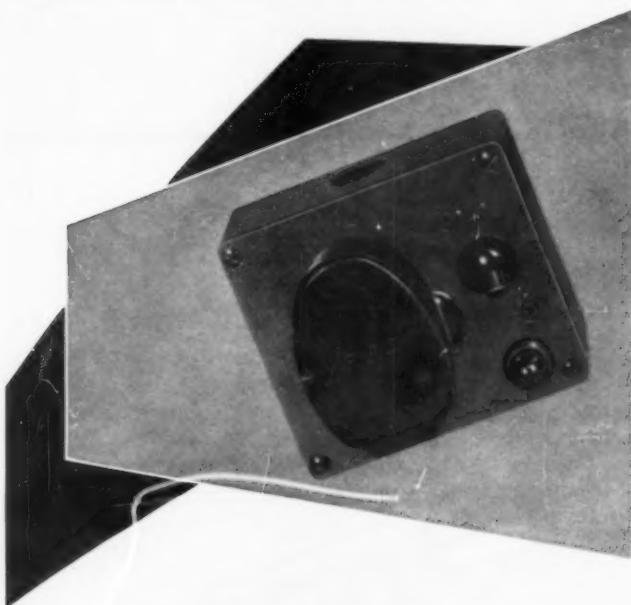
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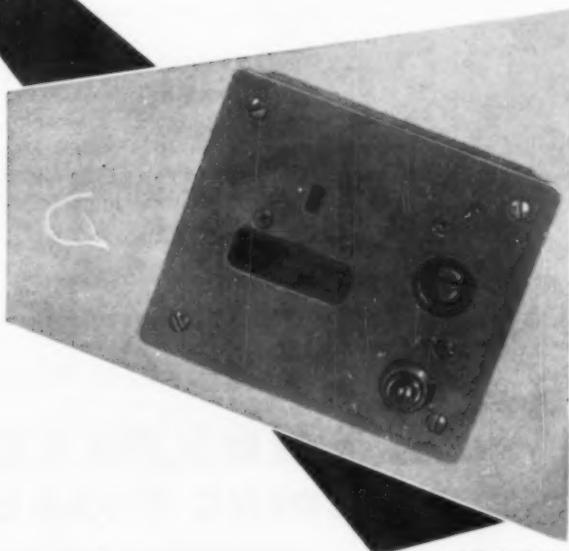
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ROOFING

Boards of either thickness may be nailed to joists or rafters, and should be covered with felt and asphalt or other waterproof covering. Care should be taken to protect the boards from the rain before the outer covering is laid.

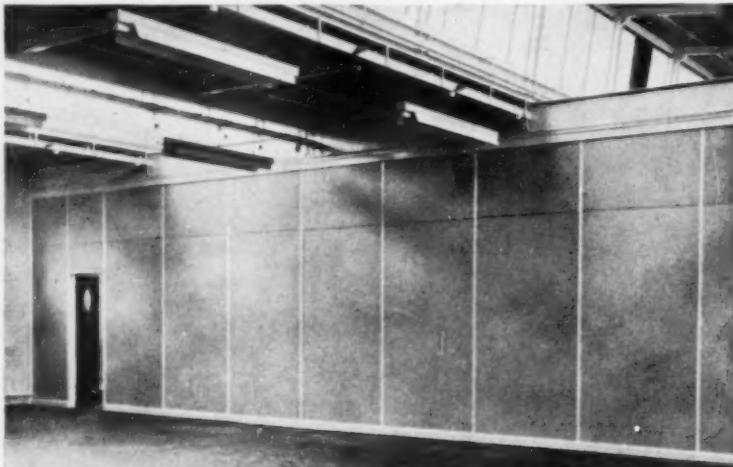
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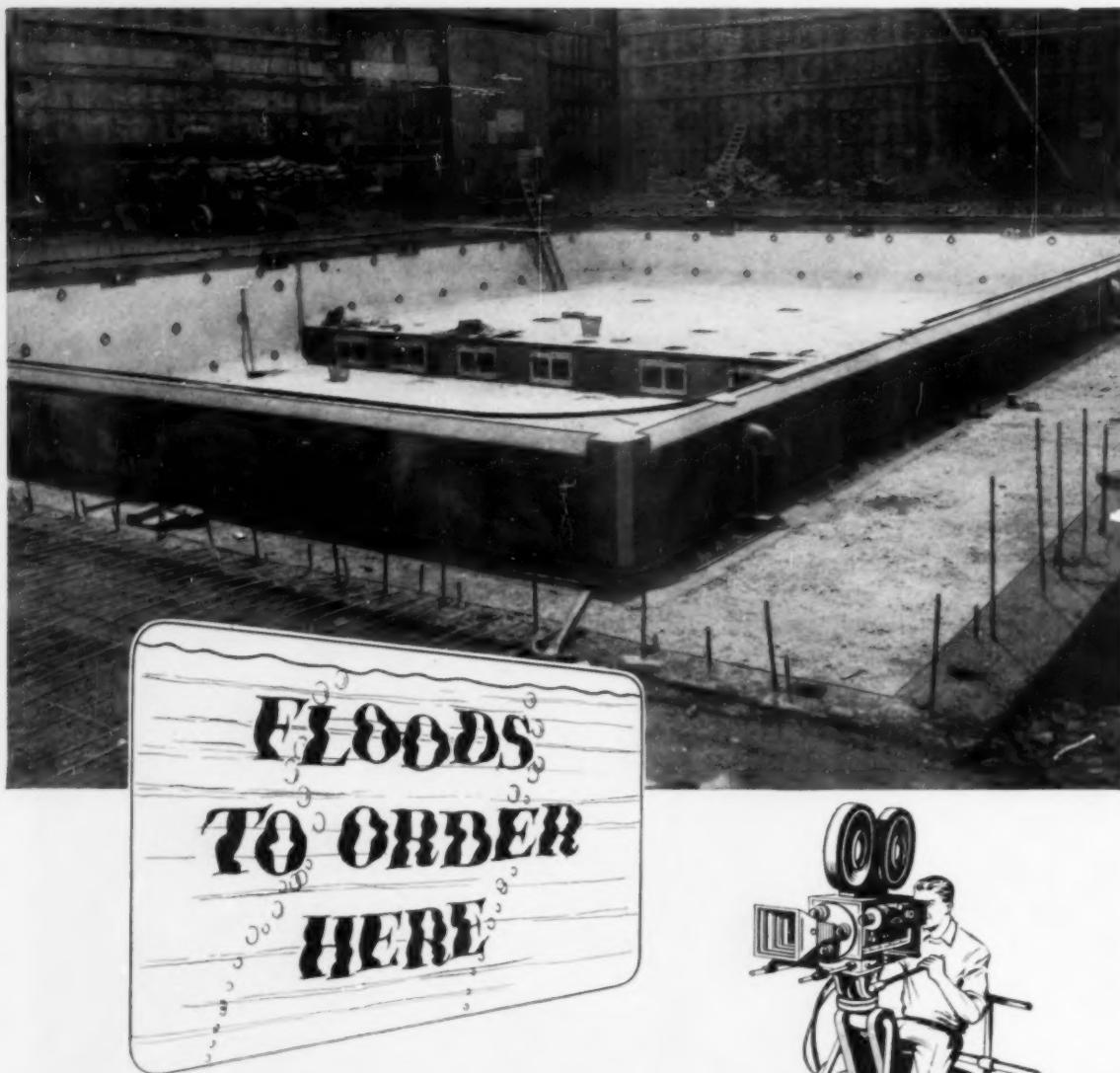
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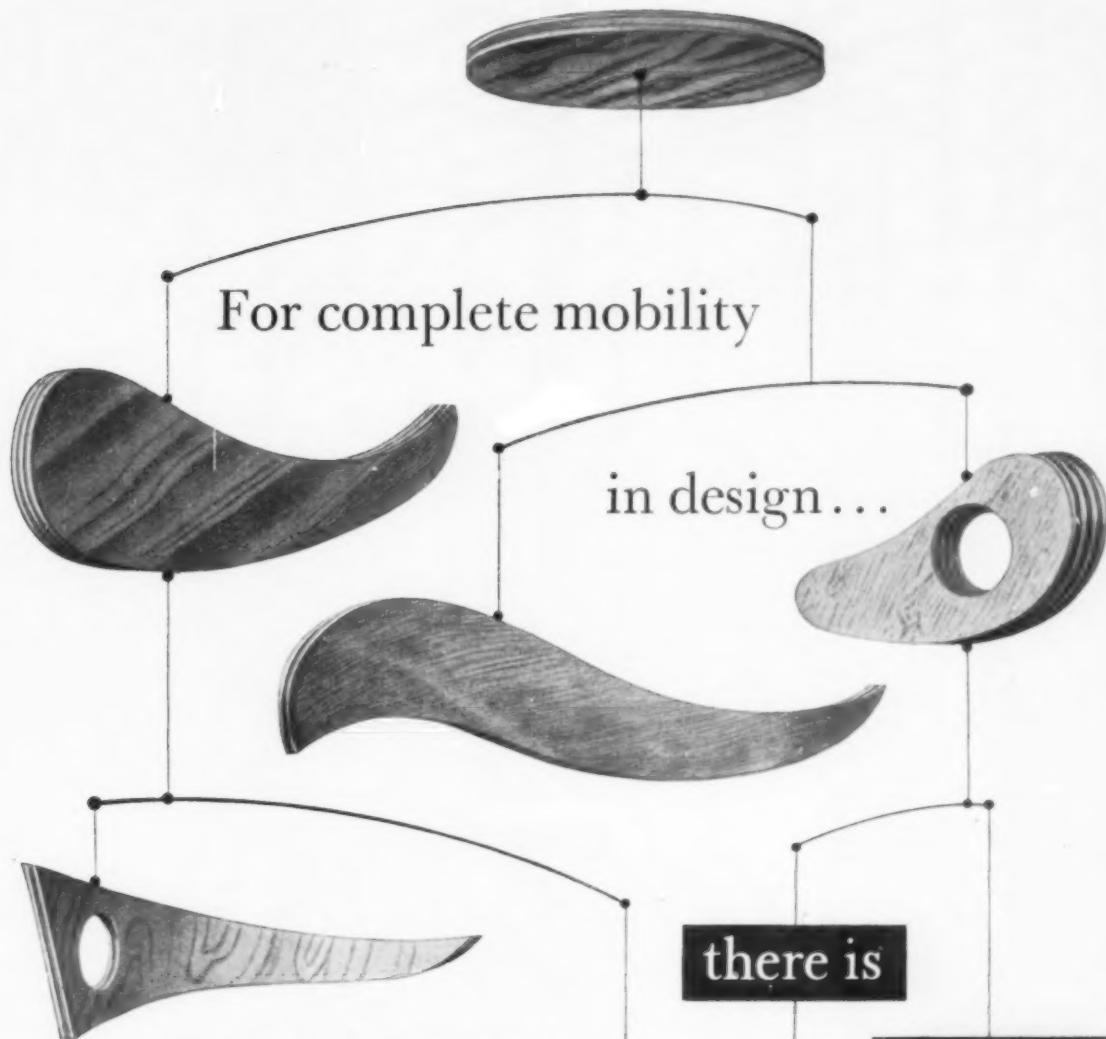
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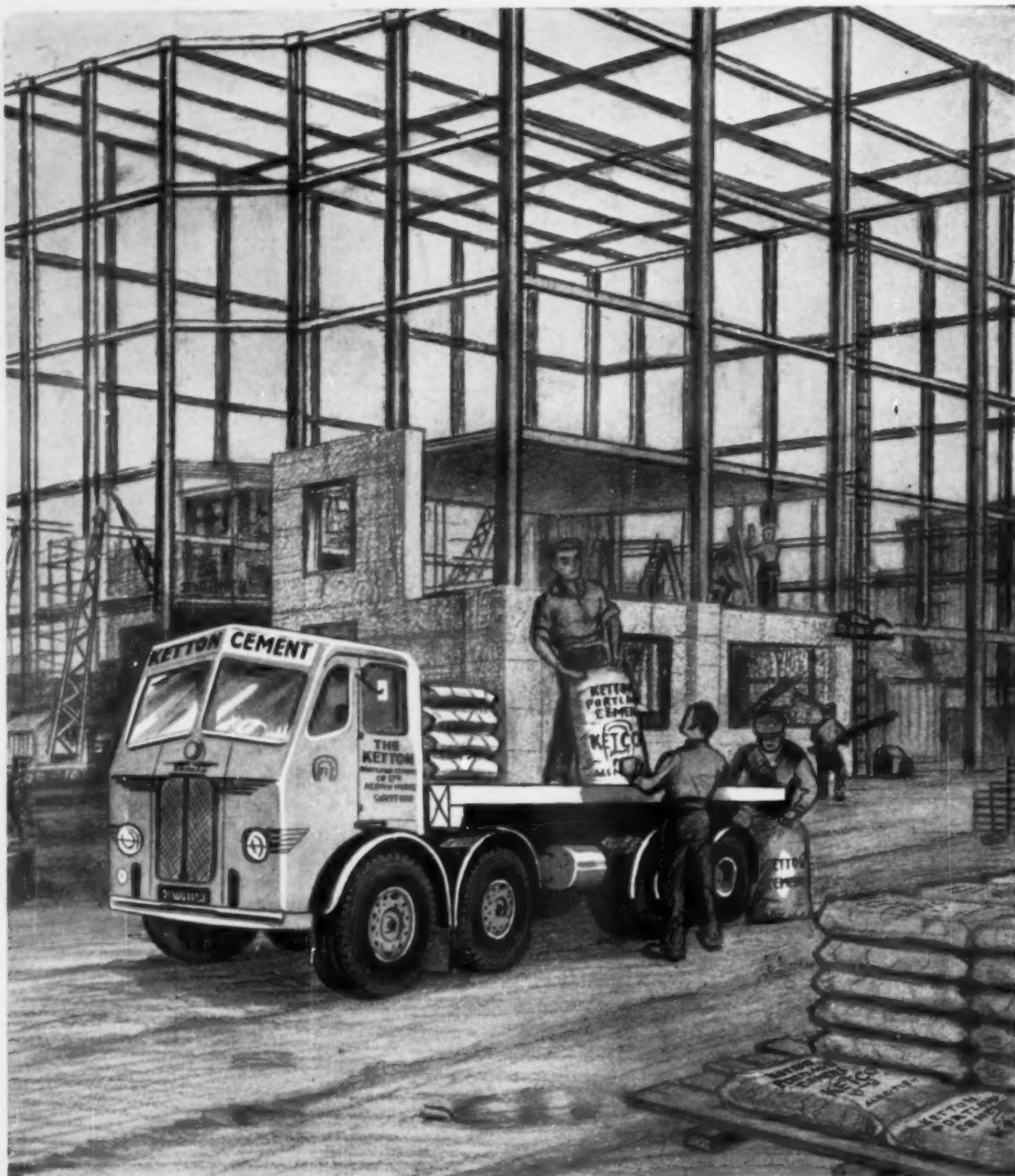
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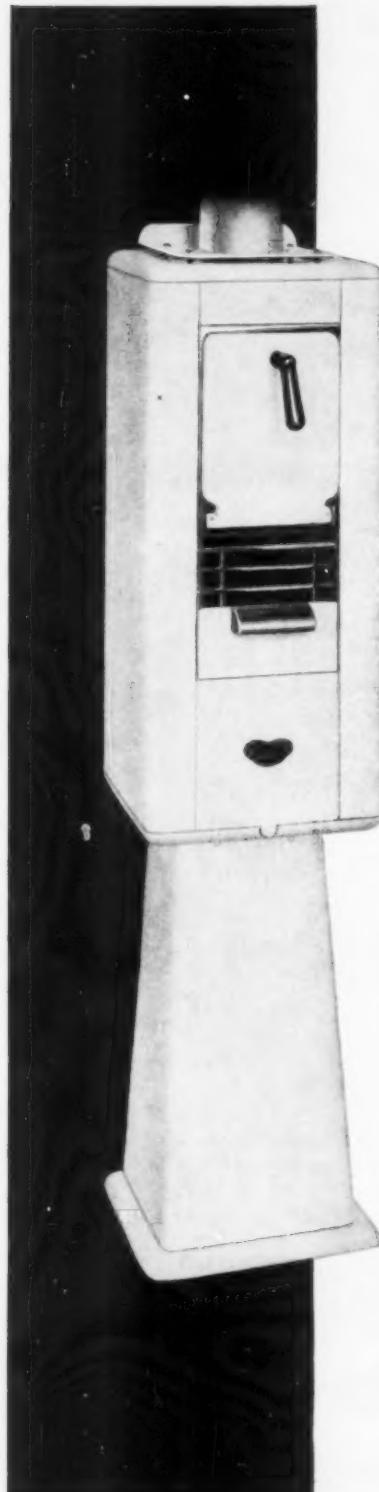
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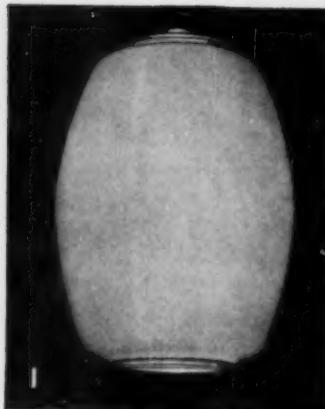
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new trends



4

1. SERIES RXB

2. SERIES RXA
(This may be inverted)3. SERIES RXE
(Complies with Ministry of
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(Diablo design in "Perspex")5. SERIES RXS
(Complies with Ministry of
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(Illustrated in this issue)

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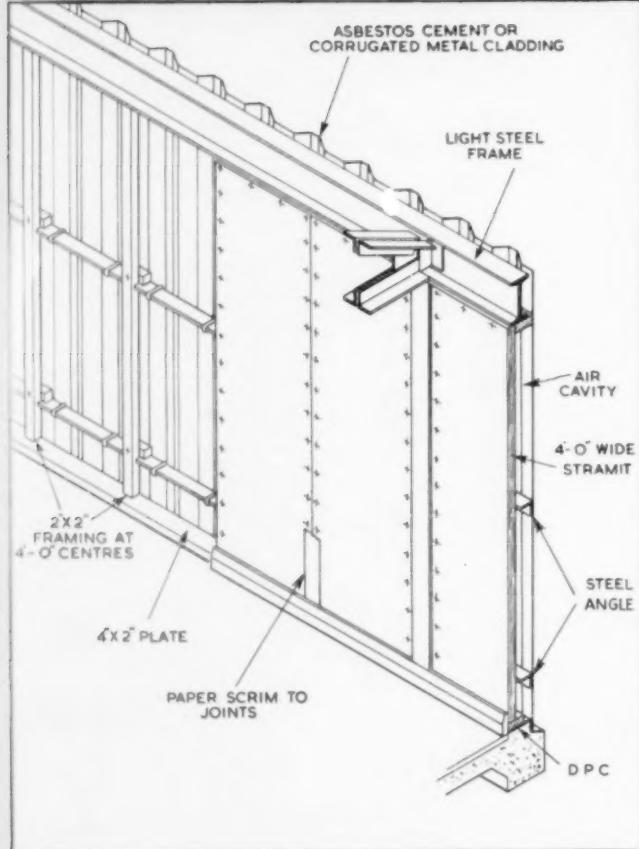
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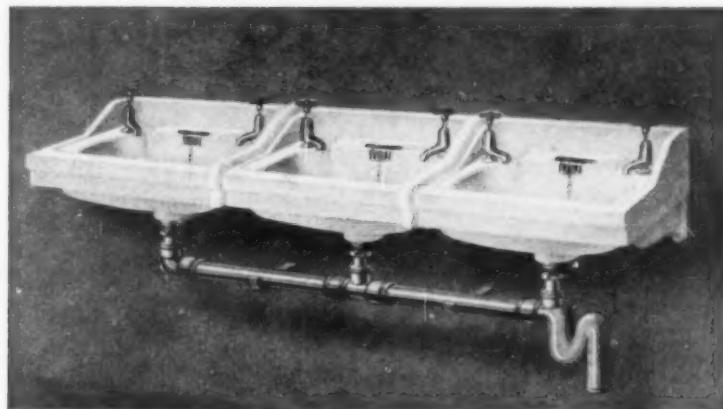
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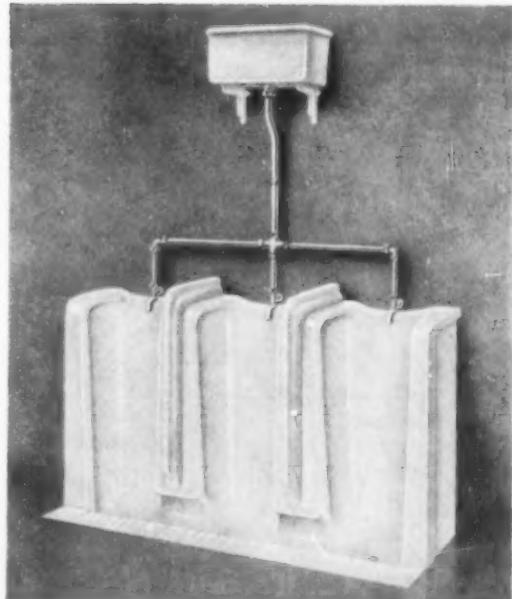
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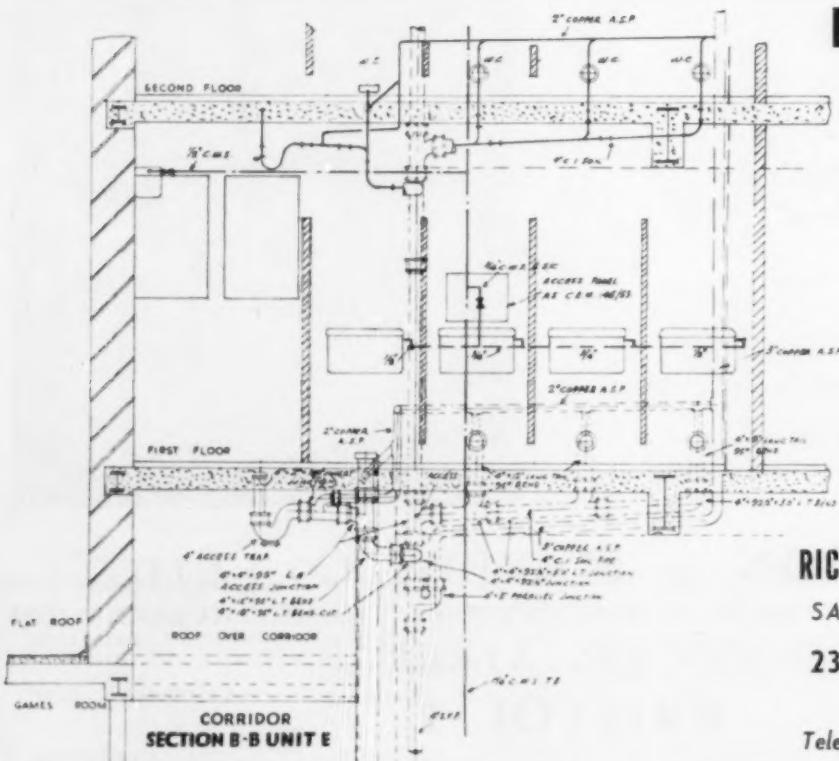
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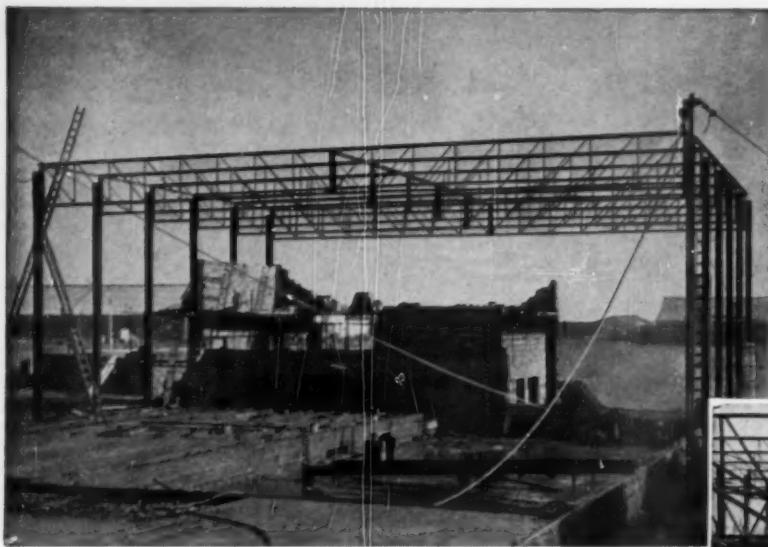
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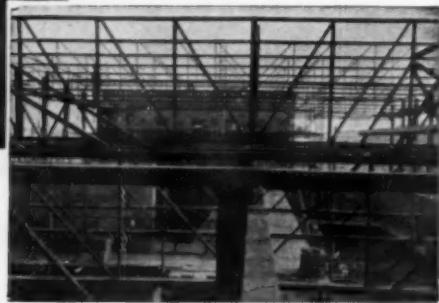
52ft. lattice girders at a Portsmouth factory. Architects : Thomas Jolly & Grant.
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Vol. 208 No. 26

THE
ARCHITECT
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29 December 1955

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St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street. Architect, Sir Edward Maufe, R.A., F.R.I.B.A.
It replaces the building destroyed in 1941 by enemy action, and was re-dedicated earlier this month.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

THE ANTI-CLIMAX

It is difficult to think of anything to write about that could possibly be of interest to you two days after your Christmas holiday. Here am I with seven shopping days till the day trying to put myself in the mood of next Thursday week. It can't be done. The best I can do is to refrain from Christmas talk and to hope that you enjoyed it all as much as I hope I am going to.

It is an odd fact that in weeks when printing schedules go crazy architectural news always breaks in waves. At this moment as I write there is hot news on New Churches for Coventry, the completion of the Royal Festival Hall, the L.C.C.'s scheme for the Crystal Palace, the much debated Youth Hostel at Holland Park and a number of less important but interesting other things. When you read about them here the news will be nearly two weeks old. I am sorry.

LONDON AIRPORT

Her Majesty the Queen officially inaugurated the new buildings at London Airport on 16th December when she unveiled an inscription and opened "The Queen's Building" which forms the central block of the fully developed terminal buildings scheme. I know that Mr. Frederick Gibberd was there because his back appeared in a picture in *The Times* but in the account of the proceedings inside the paper although the child who presented a bouquet to Her Majesty was fully described there was no mention of the architect.

Mr. Gibberd deserves the praise and thanks of the public for his work at London Airport and the mention of his name in an account of the Royal Visit is the very least that might have been expected.

The national press would do a service to the public if it made a rule that architects of all new buildings described or illustrated should be mentioned. This would provide a very modest amount of well deserved publicity to some and serve as a warning to potential clients of others.

CHEAP CHURCHES

The sudden death of Dr. Gorton, the Bishop of Coventry, who did so much for the cathedral, has cast a shadow over Mr. Basil Spence's new scheme for a series of cheaply constructed churches for Coventry.

The scheme was illustrated in the daily papers a week or so ago and is the fruit of more than a year's work by the architect, work in which he was greatly assisted by the bishop's enthusiasm.

It so happened that the picture in *The Times* showed an early form of bell tower, later schemes appeared in the *Illustrated London News*. The idea is to provide a standardised set of units consisting of Church, Bell Tower, Church Hall and Vicarage, which can be grouped in different ways on different sites. The church is designed to seat 250 and the church hall, which accommodates 100, is provided with domestic services.

The simple and I think rather elegant bell tower is what might be described as movable coloured cladding which can be re-arranged for special occasions. The astonishingly low price of £16,000 does not include the vicarage.

COMPLETION OF THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

I have always defended the somewhat unsatisfactory external appearance of the R.F.H. on the grounds that the building was not finished. My case will be considerably weakened if the latest proposals of the L.C.C. are carried out. The original idea was that a small hall-cum-theatre to seat 800 was to be included in the design; this, with its stage and an exhibition gallery, was to be located partly below ground and partly under the foyer. This would have lengthened the main building in the direction of Belvedere Road.

The L.C.C. has now had second thoughts based partly on the following. First, the road lay-out for the South Bank has been altered and would make the carrying out of the original plan more difficult. Secondly, it is now considered that it would be wasteful and difficult to promote concerts and theatrical productions in the same hall. (It should also be remembered that it is now intended to build the National Theatre on the South Bank) and thirdly that the Queen's Hall Committee suggested that the demand for a 1,000 seat hall in London might be met by the L.C.C. as an addition to the R.F.H.

The new proposals are that a concert hall (not a theatre) should be erected between Waterloo Bridge and the R.F.H. and that the existing building should be provided with such additional facilities as are now needed for its full and efficient functioning (this may provide the added length which I think is necessary).

The L.C.C. hopes to obtain a treasury grant for this scheme because of past Government undertakings on the subject of the re-building of the Queen's Hall. The capital cost of the undertaking is estimated at between 1-1½ million pounds.

As a first move the L.C.C. general purposes committee is asking for a grant of £5,000 for the preliminary expenses of preparing schemes and estimates.

Two things strike me about these proposals. The first is that the L.C.C. does not hesitate to clutter up the R.F.H. with its beastly curtains and stage when it periodically turns the concert hall into a theatre—a purpose for which the building was not designed. Would it do the same in the small hall having purposely omitted the theatre element? Does it propose to continue with its policy of wrecking the interior of the festival hall at regular intervals? Secondly, after considerable pressure from critics the site of the National Theatre was changed from "between the bridges" to between Charing Cross Bridge and County Hall. This was done on the grounds that it would be well-nigh impossible to compose the National Theatre and the R.F.H. satisfactorily on the site.

Will not the new hall pose an identical problem? It



Model of the proposed Youth Hostel adjacent to Holland House. In a letter to *The Times*, the Chairman of Kensington B.C. Housing and Town Planning Committee describes the low dormitory wing designed in materials to harmonise with Holland House as admirable, but objects strongly to the high block, "this cold, gaunt structure rising from a pleasant wooded area . . . in violently contrasting materials from the remaining buildings." Reproductions of the architect's drawings are shown on page 848 and 849

will, one supposes, be a smaller block than the National Theatre and the problem may not therefore be as acute. A connecting link between the R.F.H. and the new block is mentioned in the L.C.C.'s proposals. This might provide an answer but buildings given connecting links for which they are not designed are seldom improved thereby. I shall look forward to the scheme with interest tinged with anxiety.

HOLLAND PARK YOUTH HOSTEL

The steady opposition of the Kensington Borough Council to Sir Hugh Casson and Neville Conder's design for a youth hostel incorporating the remaining wing of Holland House continues. In the past this row has, as far as the public is concerned, been carried on in the dark because the Youth Hostels Association would not allow plans to be published. A joint L.C.C.-Y.H.A. press conference has now been held and the cat is out of the bag. The scheme is illustrated elsewhere in this issue and my picture shows a view of the model. The moans of the Kensington Borough Council are as I suspected groundless.

I have not yet heard whether the L.C.C. has given planning approval to the bold scheme by the same architects for the redevelopment of a site opposite St. Marylebone town hall which includes a proposed office block of 22 storeys.

BATHS AT CARDIFF

Cardiff Corporation have received permission from the M.O.H.L.G. to build a swimming pool for the 1958

British Empire Games at a cost of £450,000. The report that I have seen does not say who the architect is nor whether the scheme has yet been designed.

Some months ago the scheme of a student, Mr. Keith J. Evans, B.Arch., for a Lido beside the river in Cardiff was published in the A.&B.N. and commented on on this page.

The subject would make an excellent competition but I doubt whether there is time to organise one and have the baths finished by mid 1958.

FIRE SURROUND COMPETITION

The Institute of Fuel is to be congratulated on its decision to hold a competition for the design of "settings for free-standing domestic fires". Shortly after the war it was almost impossible to find a reasonably priced ready made fire surround of pleasant design. One or two firms had good stock items at a price but generally speaking slabbed-up tile surrounds were atrocious. Thanks to continuous criticism in the architectural papers and from architects themselves many manufacturers began to produce better designs. This competition is a further proof of progress.

The three first prizes—there are three sections to the competition—each of 200gns should attract a good entry.

The names of the judges have not been announced. I hope it will be a worthy list. I hope also that the R.I.B.A. will give the necessary approval—or is this type of competition exempt from the rules of the competitions committee?

INTRODUCTION

Radiation gave a Christmas party partly I imagine to exercise their new public relations officer Mr. Colin Woodall, late of the Parkinson Stove Co. and partly to show off Mr. Eric Bellingham, who recently gave up the Director Generalship of the C.U.C. to become head of their solid fuel branch. Dr. Harold Hartley, Chairman of the Company, made the speech of the year in less than 50 words.

50,000 UP

The Ministry of Works library celebrated its 50,000 accession on 12th December with a modest domestic party to which its regional librarians and a handful of favoured outsiders were invited. Mr. Agard Evans, the librarian, spoke of the rapid growth of the library since its foundation after the war and of its growing importance.* He explained that an "accession" was something which had been fully "processed" through the library system ending up in the catalogue. The lucky book was a reprint of a standard work on the English cabinet-maker.

Sir Harold Emmerson, Secretary of the Ministry and soon to be transferred to the Ministry of Labour, said that when he told the Minister of the occasion being celebrated his first two questions were "Is it necessary and how much does it cost?" He was able to assure him that the library was indeed necessary and that at least half of its accessions were obtained free.

ABNER

(*It now answers enquiries from inside and outside the Ministry at the rate of 15,000 a year.)

A.B.S. Draw Result

The A.B.S. Prize Draw took place at the Annual Ball on Thursday, December 8, at Grosvenor House when Mrs. C. H. Aslin drew the following lucky numbers:—

No.	Name	District
22633	Miss E. P. Hanbury	Torquay
21407	Mr. C. E. Taylor	Bristol
2409	Mr. G. H. Gray	Tynemouth
19519	Mr. G. W. Batham	Torquay
26059	Mr. F. J. Humphreys	Wraysbury
23832	Mr. J. Coyle	Greenford
2626	Mr. F. J. Hammick	Plymouth
16257	Mr. P. Billington	Brighton
2248	Mr. Kenneth Austin	Abingdon
16683	Mr. R. Southall	Reading
12619	Mr. D. W. L. Gallaughaugh	London
4924	Mr. H. S. Stonard	Wirral
18680	Mr. F. Jones	Exeter

Each programme for the Ball had a number. These are the lucky ones which will be rewarded with a free ticket for next year's Ball.

APPOINTMENT

Professor A. E. Richardson, P.R.A., F.R.I.B.A., and Dr. John Betjeman have joined Westminster Cathedral art commission at the invitation of Cardinal Griffin. The commission is to meet early in the new year, and will consider plans for work on the interior decoration of the cathedral.

Correspondence

New Churches

Sir,—In view of the considerable amount of church building which is now going on all over the country, your readers may be interested to learn that the following Resolution was passed at the Session of the National Assembly of the Church of England held on November 16 last.

"That the Assembly, regarding with concern the continually rising costs of church building projects, and appreciating the difficulty of making local decisions about the building standards to be adopted, asks the Church Commissioners, in association with the Central Council for the Care of Churches and diocesan representatives, to make an early investigation of the problem with a view to providing guidance to diocesan and parochial authorities."

The Central Council for the Care of Churches is planning to hold a public exhibition dealing with this topical problem during the fortnight beginning February 6, 1956 (to coincide with the Spring Session of the Church Assembly) at the Building Centre, Store Street, W.1. This exhibition will be opened by Professor A. E. Richardson, P.R.A., and will consist of plans, drawings, models and photographs of churches and hall-churches erected since 1940. Architects who wish specimens of their work to be considered for inclusion in the exhibition should send photographs or drawings of small size to the Librarian, Central Council for the Care of Churches, Fulham Palace, London, S.W.6, who will communicate with them further, should enlarged photographs or drawings or plans on a particular scale be required. The closing date for receiving material for consideration has now been extended to January 10, 1956.

Yours faithfully,

JOAN M. PETERSEN,
Librarian, Central Council for the Care of Churches.

PARTNERSHIPS

Messrs. G. H. Ryland, M.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., and Eric Cole, F.R.I.B.A., practising as L. W. Barnard and Partners at 13, Imperial Square, Cheltenham, have taken into partnership Messrs. G. P. Ryland, A.A.Dipl., A.R.I.B.A., and John L. Jones, L.R.I.B.A. The practice will continue under the present name and from the same address. The association with Eric Cole and Partners of Cirencester will continue.

Messrs. Eric Cole, F.R.I.B.A., and G. H. Ryland, M.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., practising as Eric Cole and Partners at Dyer Street House, Cirencester, have taken into partnership Messrs. K. H. Caudle, A.R.I.C.S., and R. R. Milton-Hine, Dip. Arch. (Leics.), A.R.I.B.A. The practice will continue under the same name and from the same address. The association with L. W. Barnard and Partners of Cheltenham will continue. A branch office has also been opened at 12, Bath Road, Swindon, Wilts, in the charge of Mr. P. J. Lord-Smith, A.R.I.B.A.

Mr. Eustace H. Button, practising at 23, Berkeley Square, Bristol, 8, has taken into partnership Mr. J. B. Ackland, A.R.A., who has been his

Chief Assistant for the past six years. The practise will be carried on under the title Eustace H. Button and Partner.

Messrs. Edwards and Webster, F./A.R.I.B.A., A./A.M.T.P.I., are taking into partnership Mr. L. V. Bacon, A.R.I.B.A., as from 1st January 1956. The title of the firm will remain unchanged.

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Bacon will continue the practice at 10, St. Mary Street, Chippenham, Wilts (Tel. Chippenham 2294) and Mr. Webster will devote himself to the practice at Devizes, Wilts. As from 1st February next the address of the Devizes office will be moved to No. 22, St. John Street, Devizes (Tel. Devizes 52) where trade catalogues will be welcomed.

COMING EVENT

Royal Institute of British Architects

"Architecture Inside Out," Christmas Holiday Lectures for Boys and Girls, by William Allen, A.R.I.B.A. First Lecture: January 2 at 3 p.m., "Materials for Building." Second Lecture: January 4, "The Shape of Buildings." Third Lecture: January 6, "Light, Sound and Colour." Admission free, by ticket only.



A.B.S. Competition for Old People's Homes

A PRELIMINARY announcement of the competition promoted by the Architects' Benevolent Society appeared in our issue of December 1.

To assist competitors a photograph has been specially taken for this journal of the site at East Horsley, Surrey.

The conditions state that it is the intention of the promoters to proceed with the work, and that the first portion will consist of six dwellings and a portion of the Warden's accommodation. The remainder will be undertaken as contributions are received (The fund now stands at £19,600).

The object of the competition is to obtain a design which will provide imaginatively and economically, various types of dwellings for old people in self-contained homes, where, surrounded by their treasured possessions, the occupants may enjoy normal life.

The promoters will look for a scheme which provides a graceful layout with a degree of architectural unity and at the same time avoids any appearance of an institute.

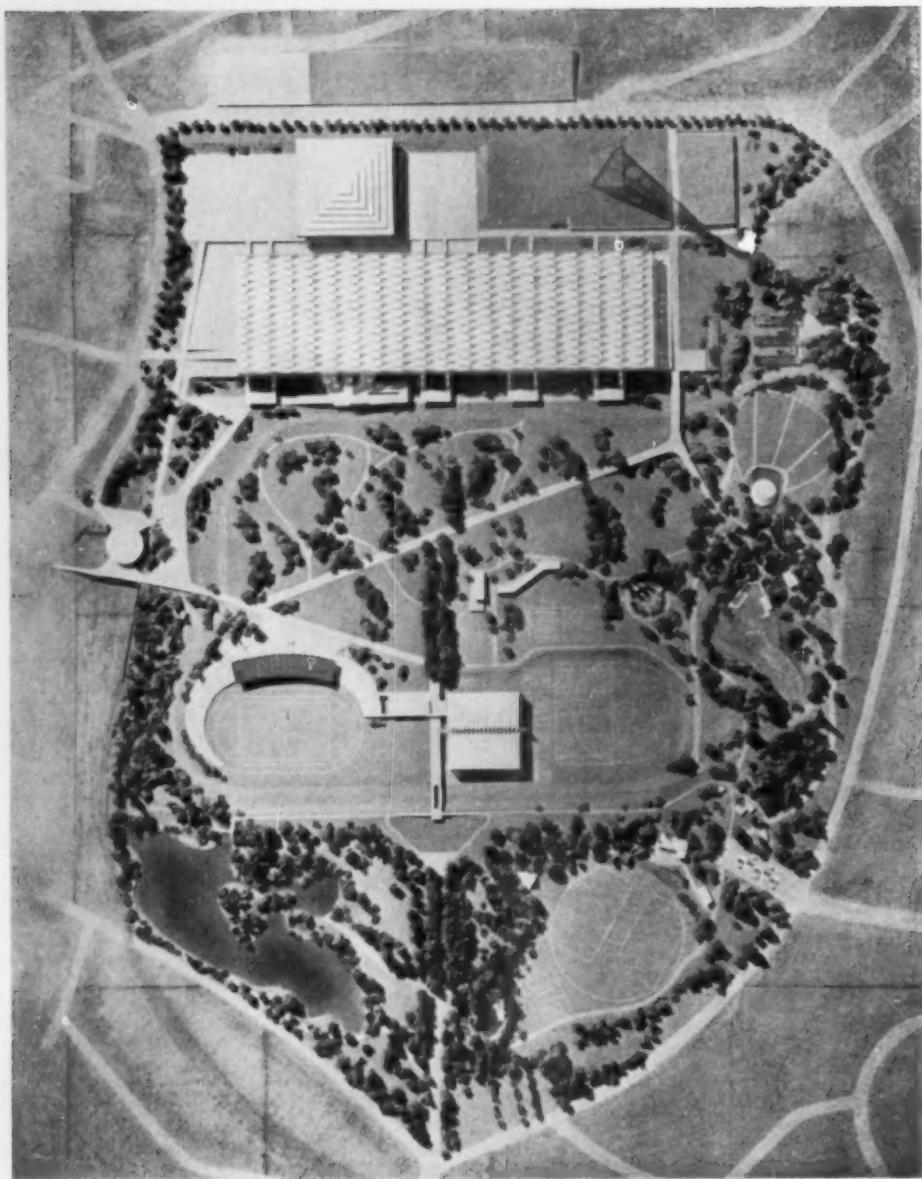
Competitors should endeavour to design dwellings simple in character, and in materials which will not go shabby quickly, but rather will improve with age. Competitors are advised to visit the site and the district.

The total cost for the whole scheme of twenty dwellings, Warden's House and Tenants' Common Room, together with



all roads, services, landscaping the layout and internal fences must not exceed £46,000.

The Assessors are Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., Mr. Arthur W. Kenyon, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., and Mr. G. Grenfell Baines, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I. The first premium is £100 and an additional £75 may be awarded at the discretion of the Assessors between not more than three competitors. The last day for submitting designs is April 6, 1956. The competition is open to all registered architects in Great Britain, Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland and to those who, being qualified for registration, have applied to A.R.C.U.K. Copies of the conditions of competition can be obtained from the Secretary, the A.B.S., 66, Portland Place, W.I.



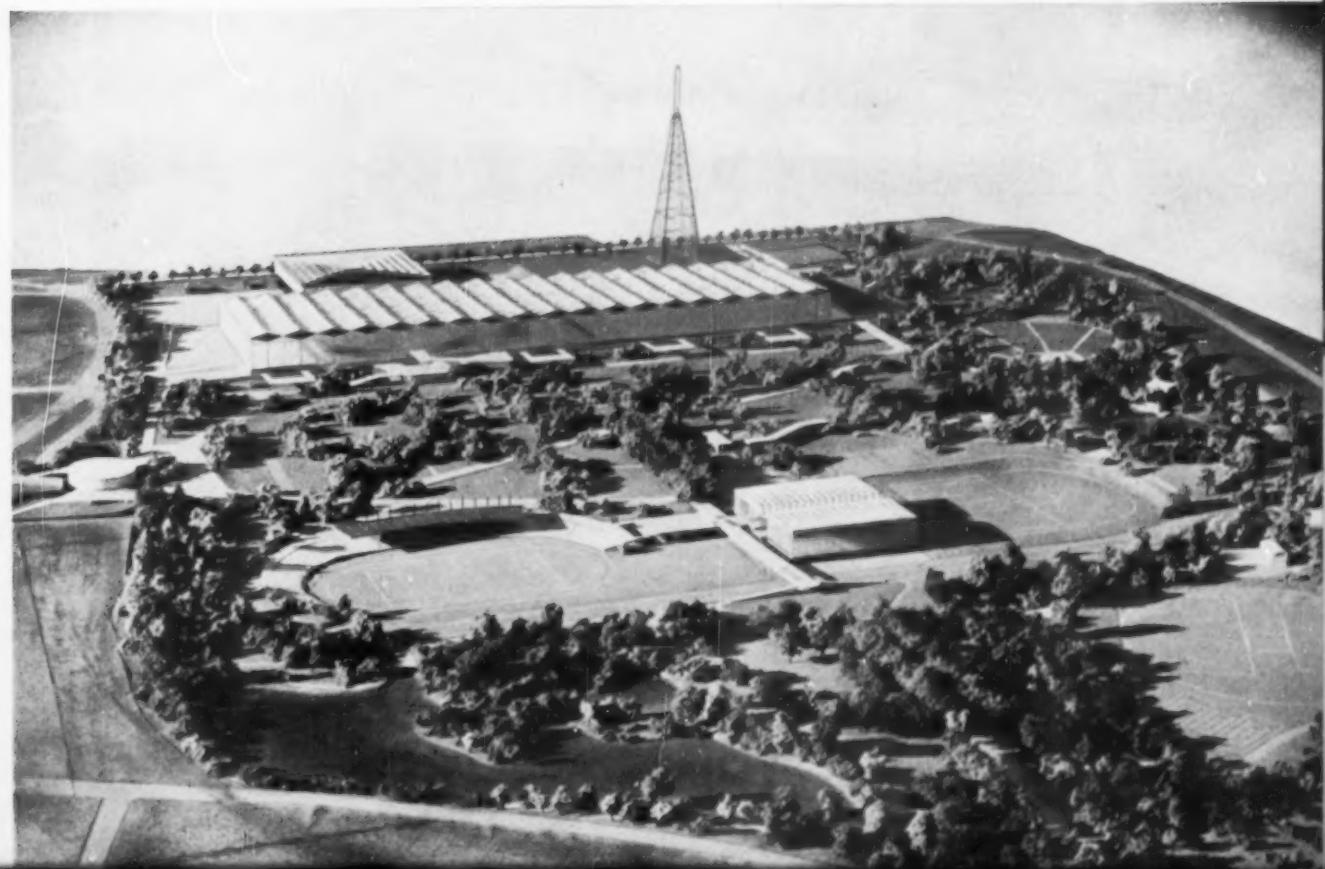
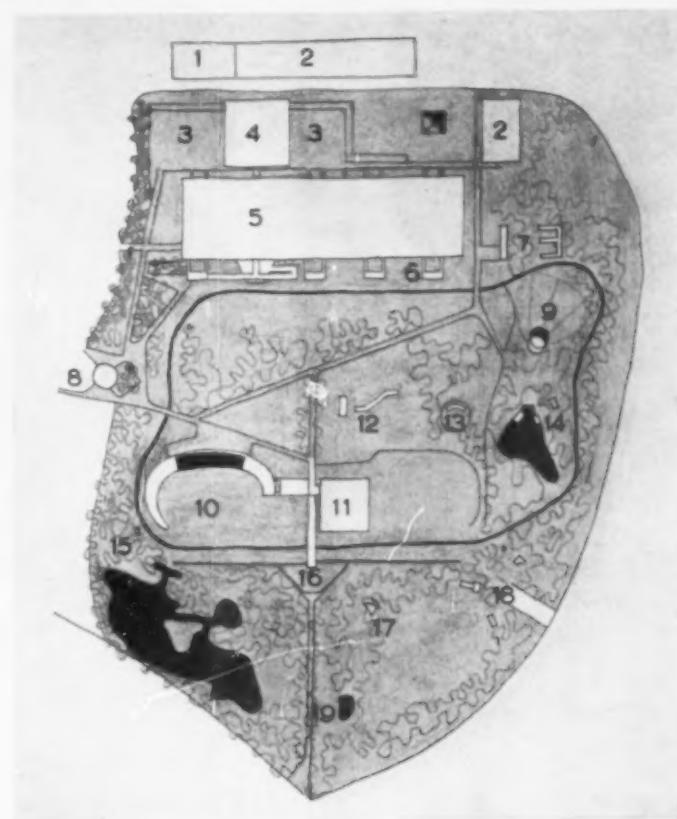
Crystal Palace Development

On 20th December, the London County Council gave approval in principle to the final recommendations put forward by Sir Gerald Barry, Consultant to the L.C.C. on the redevelopment and use of the Crystal Palace estate. In November 1954 the Council approved in principle the proposals for developing part of the estate as a National Youth and Sports Centre (see Key Plan). The final proposals add to this a comprehensive National exhibition centre on the site of the old Crystal Palace, designed by the Architect to the L.C.C., and a scheme for the garden layout prepared by the Chief Officer of the Parks Department. They will be illustrated and described more fully in next week's issue. In his report to the Council, Sir Gerald Barry says "Quite apart from the desirability of providing a home for the British Industries Fair there is a general pressing need for an up-to-date exhibition centre in London. . . . on the scale and in the style required for large trade shows. Some prejudice against the Crystal Palace site persists on the ground that it is thought to be inaccessible" . . . it is worth noting that the Crystal Palace is nearer to the centre of London than is Castle Bromwich (the present home of the heavy engineering centre of the B.I.F.) to the centre of Birmingham.

"It is highly desirable in principle that, at a time of unprecedentedly keen and growing competition for world trade, Britain should have at its disposal up-to-date exhibition buildings at least as good as its competitors . . . it would seem reasonable to suppose that if cities such as Milan, Brussels, Utrecht and Hanover find such projects profitable, it should not be beyond the capacity of the capital of our still rich and powerful country to do as much . . . The Crystal Palace affords the only remaining opportunity for an up-to-date exhibition site near the centre of London. . . ."

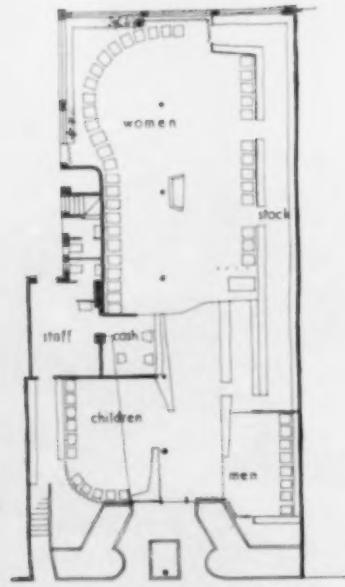
KEY

1. Coach and Bus Station
2. Multistorey Car Park
3. Open Air Exhibition
4. Exhibition Hall 'A'
5. Main Exhibition Hall & Arena
6. Restaurants
7. Greenhouses
8. Low Level Station
9. Open Air Amphitheatre
10. Sports Stadium
11. Sports Hall
12. Hostel
13. Paxton Memorial Gardens
14. Swimming Lake
15. Ski Tower
16. Motor racing Paddock
17. Bandstand
18. Piazza
19. Staff Yard





Women's Shop



PLAN. SCALE: 1 in. = 24 ft

SHOP INTERIOR

for Russell & Bromley, Leytonstone

architects: E. D. JEFFERISS MATHEWS, O.B.E.
J. Douglass Mathews & Partners
assistant: Bernard Green

THE shop, on the ground floor, was last altered in a major way a few years before the war and it was required to re-plan the lay-out and provide new fitments for the interior to accommodate changes in selling methods and larger stocks which now need to be carried. It was also necessary to improve the intensity of the lighting for that which is now generally accepted by the public as a minimum is far greater than the tungsten lamps of the existing shop could provide.

As the show windows and fascia were all in good condition and did not show their twenty years of age either in design or wear to any marked degree, it was decided only to open up the entrance doorway by the removal of two bow windows flanking the existing door and to repair the external lobby. It was beyond this point that the major alterations were carried out.

It was essential to provide a maximum number of seats for the rush periods which occur during Saturdays and sales without giving any suggestion of crowding. From experience five seats per assistant has been found a convenient number for this particular shop and spaces for this number as a minimum were provided in each grouping.

All boxed shoes are concealed in a stock corridor in contrast to the traditional display of shoe boxes, to allow a more concentrated system, reducing time in the selection of any particular type of shoe by the assistants. Wrapping is, however, kept in the selling area as the customer does not like to feel deserted immediately after a purchase.

The children's section placed immediately by the door is arranged to take the inevitable pram or push chair and to allow other small members of the family to amuse themselves without interfering with the general flow of customers through the shop.

To overcome the unexplainable shyness of most men in buying any article of clothing, their department is kept quite separate but near enough to the handbag and novelties section to encourage their inspection.

Materials and Fittings

Display fittings and counters are finished in natural timber or veneers wax polished. In certain cases tops are finished in laminated plastic to take excessive wear, for example the cash counter and repair department counter. A further saving in incidental damage and

Men's Department



scratching was achieved by providing a slatted shelf at the front of the display and repair counters for baskets and parcels.

All display fixtures are made adjustable to give scope for different dressing at various seasons. The methods of adjustment have been made as simple as possible and are generally achieved by pegs or pins fitting into holes in upright members.

Walls and ceilings are finished in matt paint in pale colours, yellow and blue grey, to give maximum reflection of light.

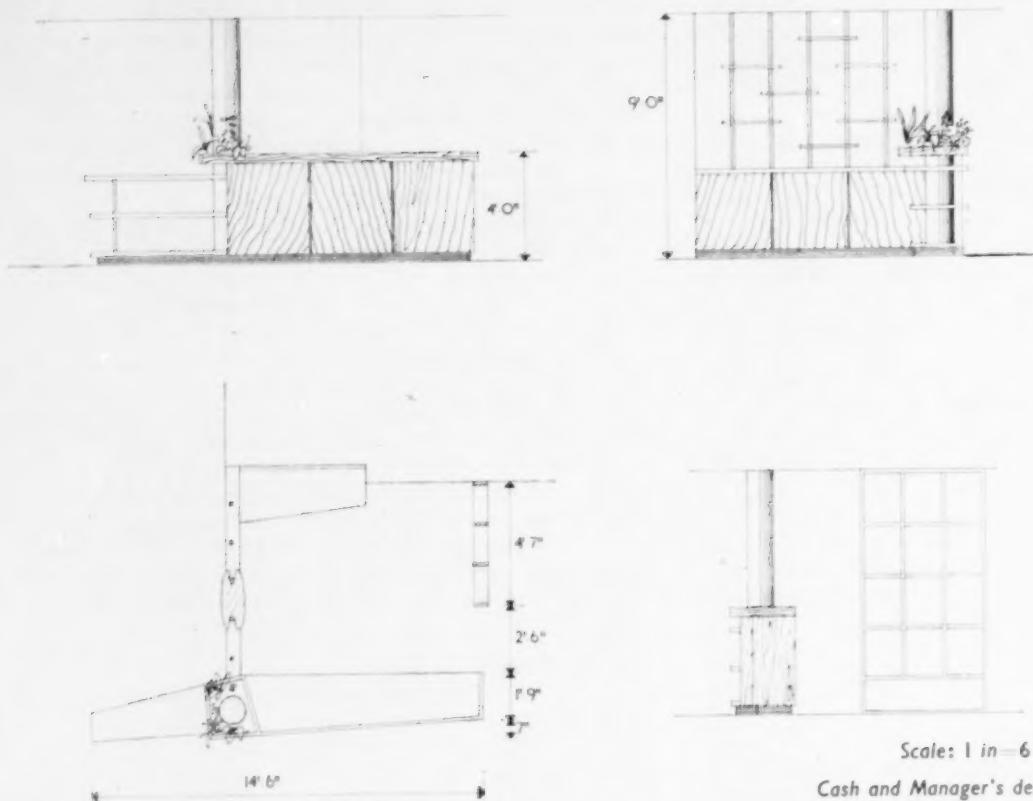
The false ceiling to the front of the shop is formed of "V" jointed hardboard on timber bearers and painted in checkerboard pattern using white and pale blue, to follow the linoleum tiled floor. The feature curtain to the women's department is a bold pattern in mauve, yellow and black on a white ground. Elsewhere grey curtains are used for screening.

A mixture of fluorescent and tungsten is used to give both intensity and variation. The longitudinal fittings in the women's department, designed by the Architect, were made in timber by the General Contractor, and the louvres and lamp gear fixed on site by the electrician.

Services

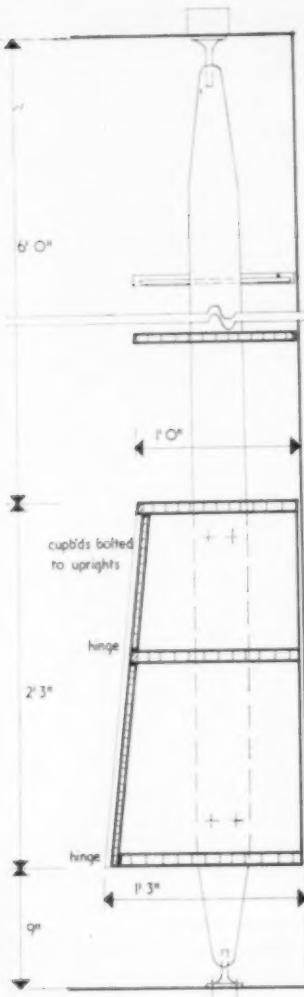
The existing radiator system was retained with only minor modifications dictated by the new layout.

The general contractors were H. Darby & Son (Leyton) Ltd.



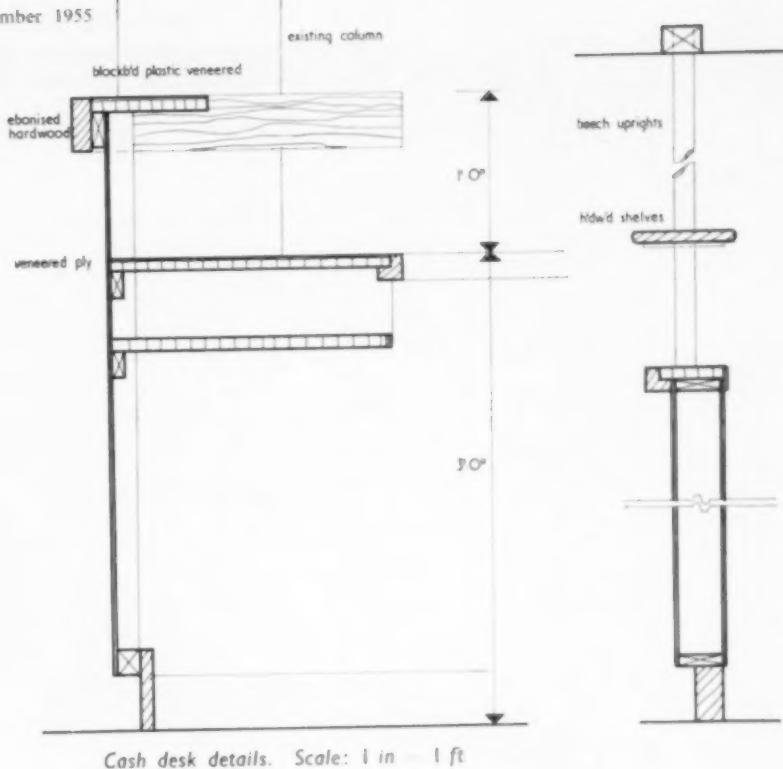
Scales: 1 in = 6 ft
Cash and Manager's desk



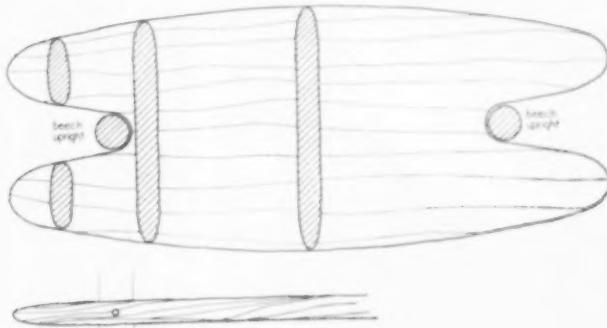


Fitting behind counter
Scale: 1 in = 1 ft

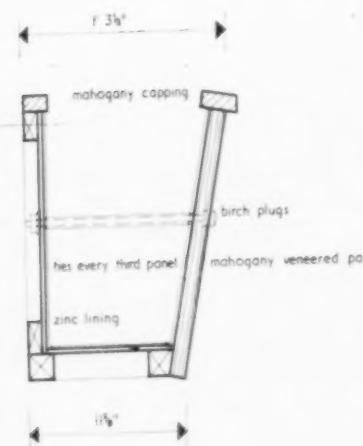
Shop interior, Leytonstone



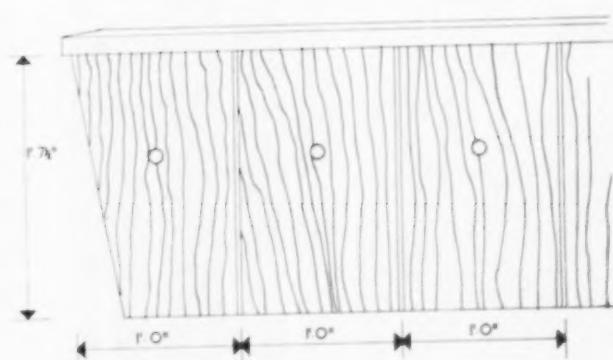
Cash desk details. Scale: 1 in = 1 ft



Cash desk display shelves. Scale: 1/7th F.S.



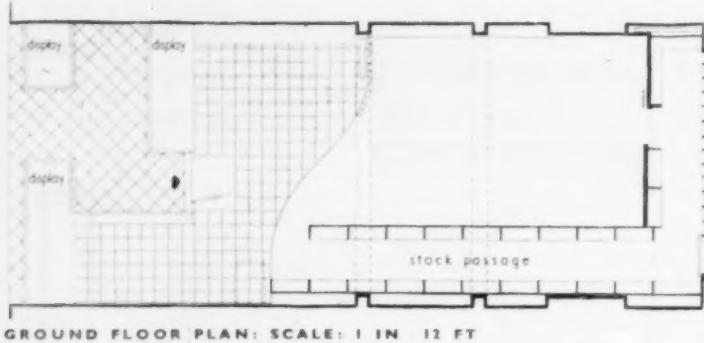
Flower
Box
detail.
Scale:
1 in = 1 ft



Shop for Russell & Bromley, Tunbridge Wells

architect: E. D. JEFFERISS MATHEWS, O.B.E.

assistant: Victor Nicholas



IN view of the changes in requirements and methods of service and storage since the shop was last altered in about 1935, it was required to replan the shop and improve the shop-front, fascia and lettering.

In replanning the shop, the main requirements were improvement in seating arrangements, comfort of customers, and the division of the shop into departments in an orderly manner.

It was also required to re-design the lighting facilities and to improve the stock shelving situation, both from a storage accessibility and appearance point of view.

Layout

To facilitate the use of some of the window display for the Men's Department, one of the rear display windows was removed and replaced with a smaller display case. In this way it was possible to form a small Department for Men, just inside the shop, so arranged that the Handbag Department showcases could be inspected by male customers without entering the Ladies' Department.

The line of the suspended ceiling and floor accentuates the proximity of these departments to each other, and separates them from the Ladies' Section. This effect is aided by the slatted screen which follows the line of the change in floor covering and suspended ceiling.

A Stock Passage was formed to keep the shop free from unsightly shelves of boxes, and to provide extra storage on either side of the passage; this passage being situated behind the curtain-hung wall. This in turn had the effect of reducing the width of the shop and giving an appearance of greater length.

Materials and Fittings

The infilling below the shop windows was carried out with heather brown tiles with a backing of breeze blocks. Above the windows a resin bonded plywood painted dark green was used, with "v" joints in a diaper





Women's department

pattern, painted white. The small letters to the fascia are stove enamelled white, and the larger letters are green on white fascia fixed to the white balustrade.

The new paving to the entrance to the display windows is Texicrete non-slip tiles.

The fittings and cases in the Handbag Department are in polished hardwood, as also is the cash desk.

The display wall in the Men's Department is formed of polished veneered plywood with recessed pegboard show panels painted white.

In the Ladies' Department the display panels are formed of inset pegboards framed in softwood, painted white. These display recesses are accentuated by the green patterned wall-paper, which has a white background. The wall-paper returns along the end wall up to the exit door to the stock passage. Here a contrast has been made up by a

white painted panel beside the door and a green matt finish panel over, flanked by wine-coloured curtains.

Services

Tungsten lighting has been used throughout. Pendants giving the main overall light to the Ladies' Department, with additional concealed lighting from the suspended ceiling and concealed lighting shining on to the pegboard display panels. The intensity of lighting for the showcase and fittings in the Handbag Department is provided by the shaded pendant fittings situated over the counter. Additional light is provided in the entrance by the circular lense let into the suspended ceiling, and concealed lighting above it. The lighting to the Men's Department is given by egg-crates let into the suspended ceiling.

The existing Radiator system has been adapted to the new layout.

The general contractors were T. Bates and Sons, Ltd.

From men's section



North-east facade

C.P.O.'s & P.O.'s Block

ROYAL NAVAL BARRACKS

DEVONPORT

architect: E. BERRY WEBBER

THIS block, which forms part of the overall scheme for Devonport Barracks, is the first new block to be built in the long term modernisation of the Royal Naval Barracks at Chatham, Portsmouth and Devonport, for which Mr. Berry Webber is retained as consulting architect.

Although housed in one building, the C.P.O.'s and P.O.'s are quite distinct entities. This fact governed the plan. Messing, sleeping and recreational accommodation has

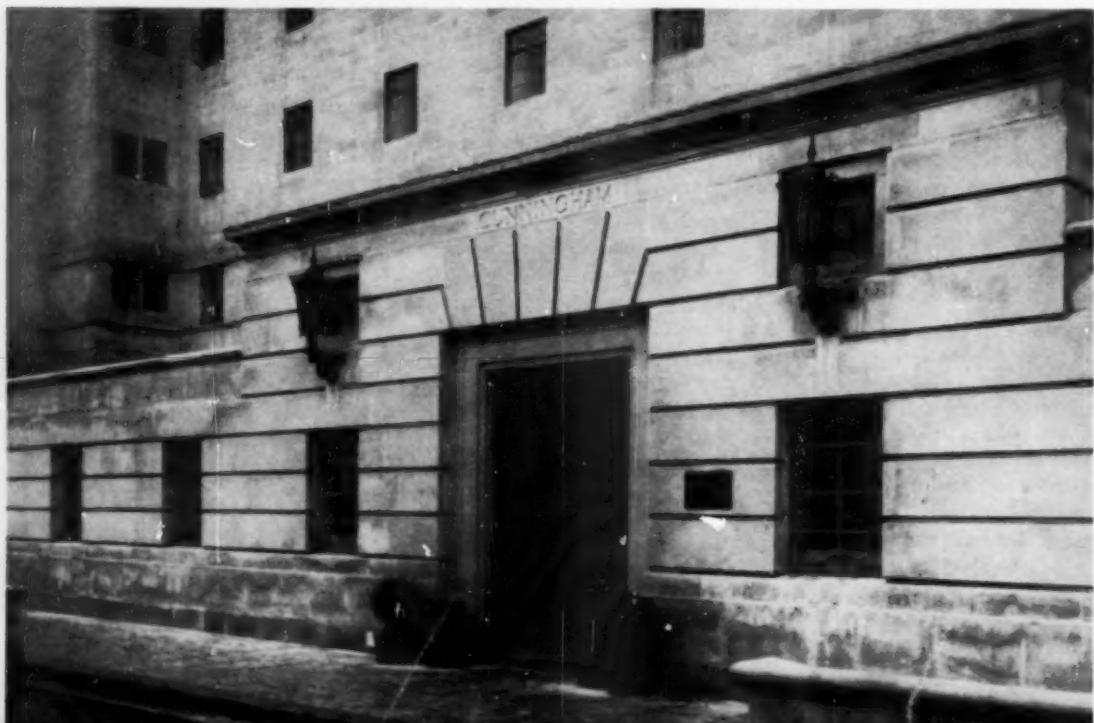
been divided with separate main entrances for C.P.O.'s and P.O.'s at either end of the block. Apart from certain engineering accommodation on the lower ground floor, the only common feature in the lay-out is the central galley serving both messes.

Advantage has been taken of the sloping site to place the building on a podium and so achieve cloakroom and storage space at lower ground floor level. The public rooms are on ground floor level with the cabins on four floors above, planned around

three interior light wells with dormitories for messmen on the fifth floor. Each of the 624 cabins (approx. 10 ft x 9 ft) for the C.P.O.'s and P.O.'s has the facilities of a modern hotel bedroom, with hot and cold wash basins.

The messes have barrel roof lights finished internally with acoustic and fibrous plaster. The billiards rooms are panelled and murals are being provided later in the smoking rooms and bars. The galley is capable of serving an emergency complement of

Main entrance



about 2½ times the peacetime numbers and cooking is by gas, electricity and steam.

The building is heated from a high pressure hot water district heating system. The messes and public rooms have floor coil heating, radiators are supplied to each cabin and ceiling heating panels are fitted in the messmen's dormitories. There is mechanical ventilation in the main public rooms and partial air cleaning and heating by the plenum system in the ground floor rooms.

The building is stone faced, steel framed, with cavity walls and reinforced concrete hollow tile floors with a flat reinforced concrete roof insulated by a layer of cork and reflecting tiles.

The interior decoration has been designed to avoid giving an "institutional" appearance and a wide range of colours has been used in the treatment of cabins to stress individuality. Each cabin is named after a ship of the Royal Navy. The building, which cost approximately £750,000, was built under the supervision of the Civil Engineer Manager at Devonport by Dudley Coles & Partners Ltd. in a little over 2½ years. The artists for the murals are Mr. John Barker and Mr. Anthony Baynes.

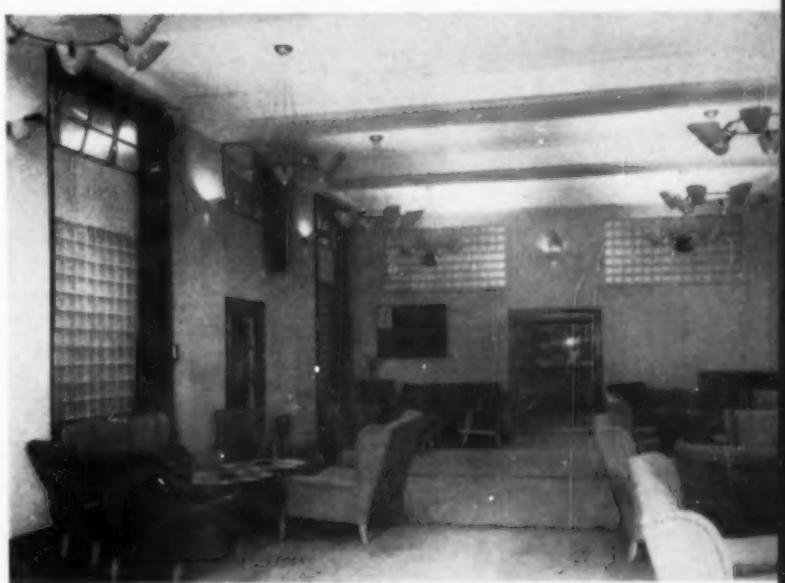
General Contractor:
Dudley Coles & Partners Ltd.

Sub-Contractors:

Accotile Paving: Neuchatel Asphalte Co. Ltd. Asphalt D.P.C.: Ragusa Asphalte Co. Ltd. Asphalt Roofing: Rook Asphalte Co. Ltd. Bricks: Midhurst Whites Ltd.—Facing, Bronze Ornamental Grilles: C. Harvey & Co. Bronze Ornamental Lanterns: C. Harvey & Co. Cast Iron Drain: J. S. Wright & Co. Ltd. Cast Iron Rainwater Heads: Nicholls & Clark Ltd. Cork Insulation to Cool Room: Ashby Warner & Co. Ltd. Constructional Steelwork: Dawnays Ltd. Cement Glaze Wall Finish: Robbs Cement Enamel Finishes Ltd. Fibrous and Acoustic Plastering: Clark & Fenn Ltd. Floors: Diespeker & Co. Ltd. (Concrete and Hollow Tile), Glazing: Andrewartha Ltd. Glazed Wall Tiling: Carter & Co. Ltd. Granolithic Paving: Tomei & Sons Ltd. Heating and Ventilation: Arthur Scull & Son Ltd. Ironmongery: James Gibbons Ltd. Lightning Conductor: W. J. Furse & Co. Ltd. Paints: F. Labbett & Sons Plastering: Tomei & Sons Ltd. Plumbing: J. Audrey Ltd. Portland Stonework: The Bath & Portland Stone Firms Ltd. Portland Stone Wall Linings: W. W. Jenkins & Co. Ltd. Quarry Tile Paving: Carter & Co. Ltd. Reinforced Concrete and Glass Block Windows and Roof Lights: Luxfer Ltd. Rolling Shutters (Metal): John Booth & Sons (Bolton) Ltd. Rubber and Linoleum Flooring: Aigite Products Ltd. Sanitary Fittings: Iron & Marble Co. Ltd. Steel Doors: St. Aubyn Engineering & Motor Co. Terrazzo Metal Linings and Partitions: Diespeker & Co. Ltd. Wall Panelling, Bar Counters and Fittings: Maple & Co. Ltd. Windows (Metal): Luxfer Ltd. Wood Block Flooring: Horsley, Smith & Co. (Hayes) Ltd.



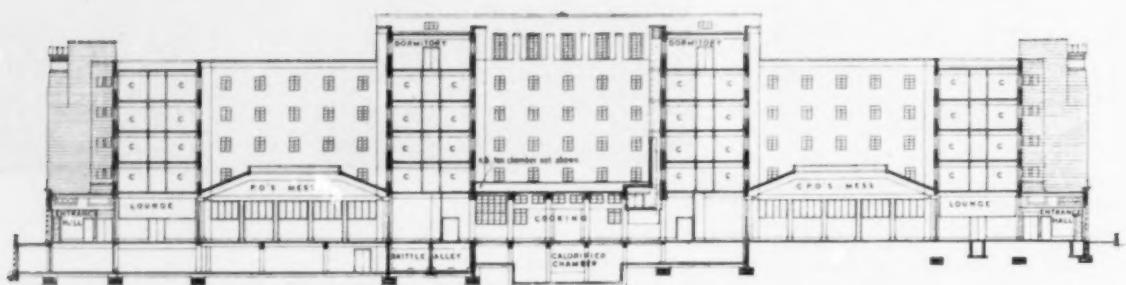
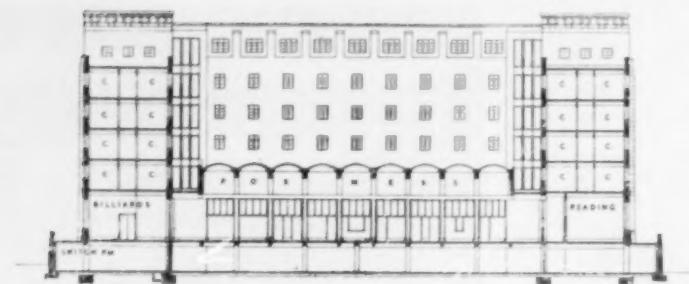
Messroom. Similar in both sections



Lounge

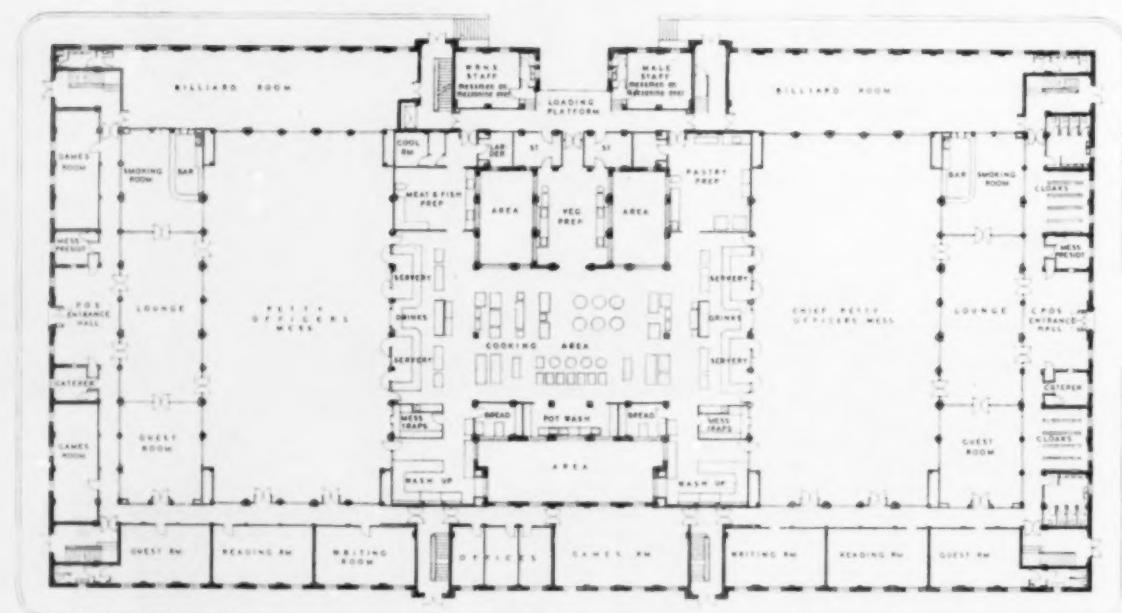
Main entrance hall





CROSS & TRANSVERSE SECTIONS

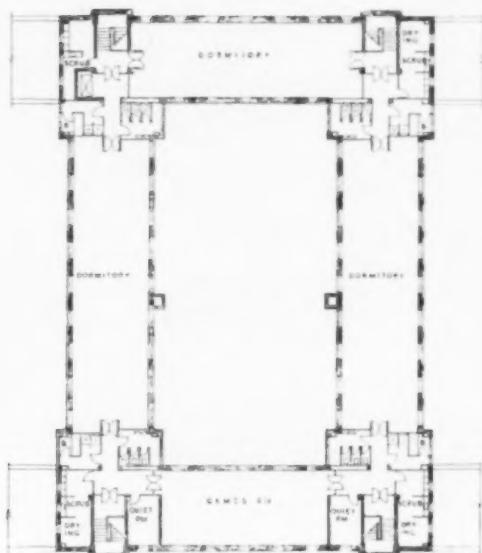
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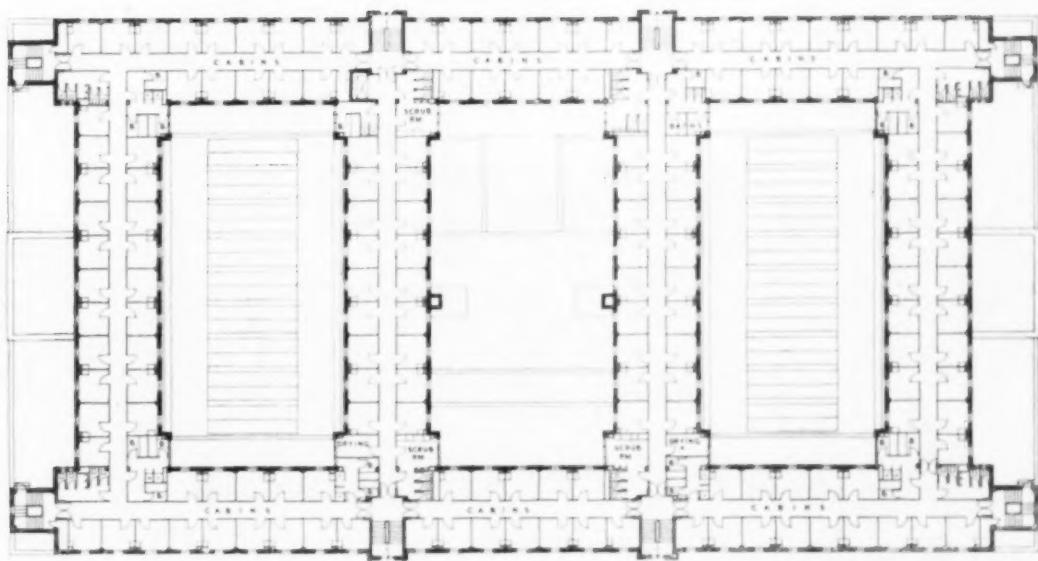
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

C.P.O.'s & P.O.'s Block, Royal Naval Barracks,

Lamp at main entrance

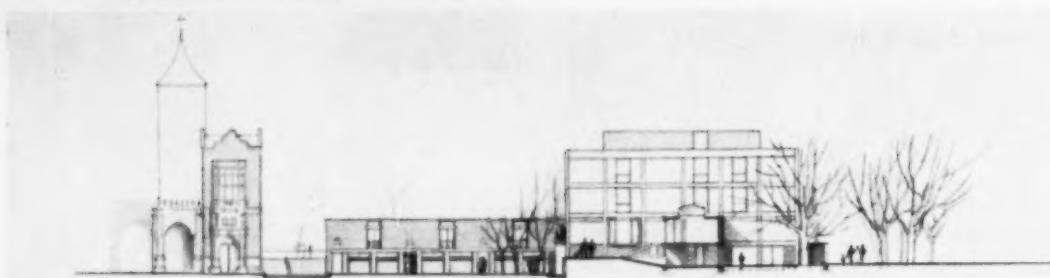


FIFTH FLOOR PLAN



TYPICAL UPPER FLOOR PLAN

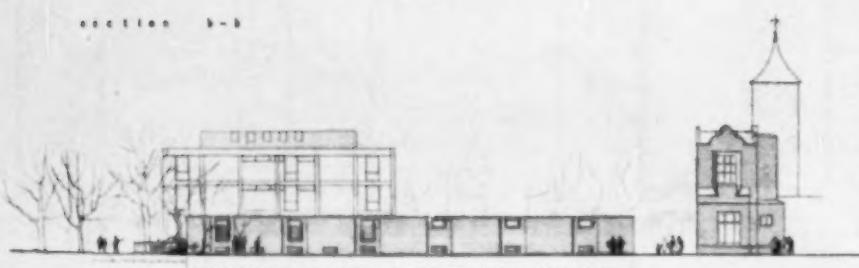
Devonport



SECTION A-A

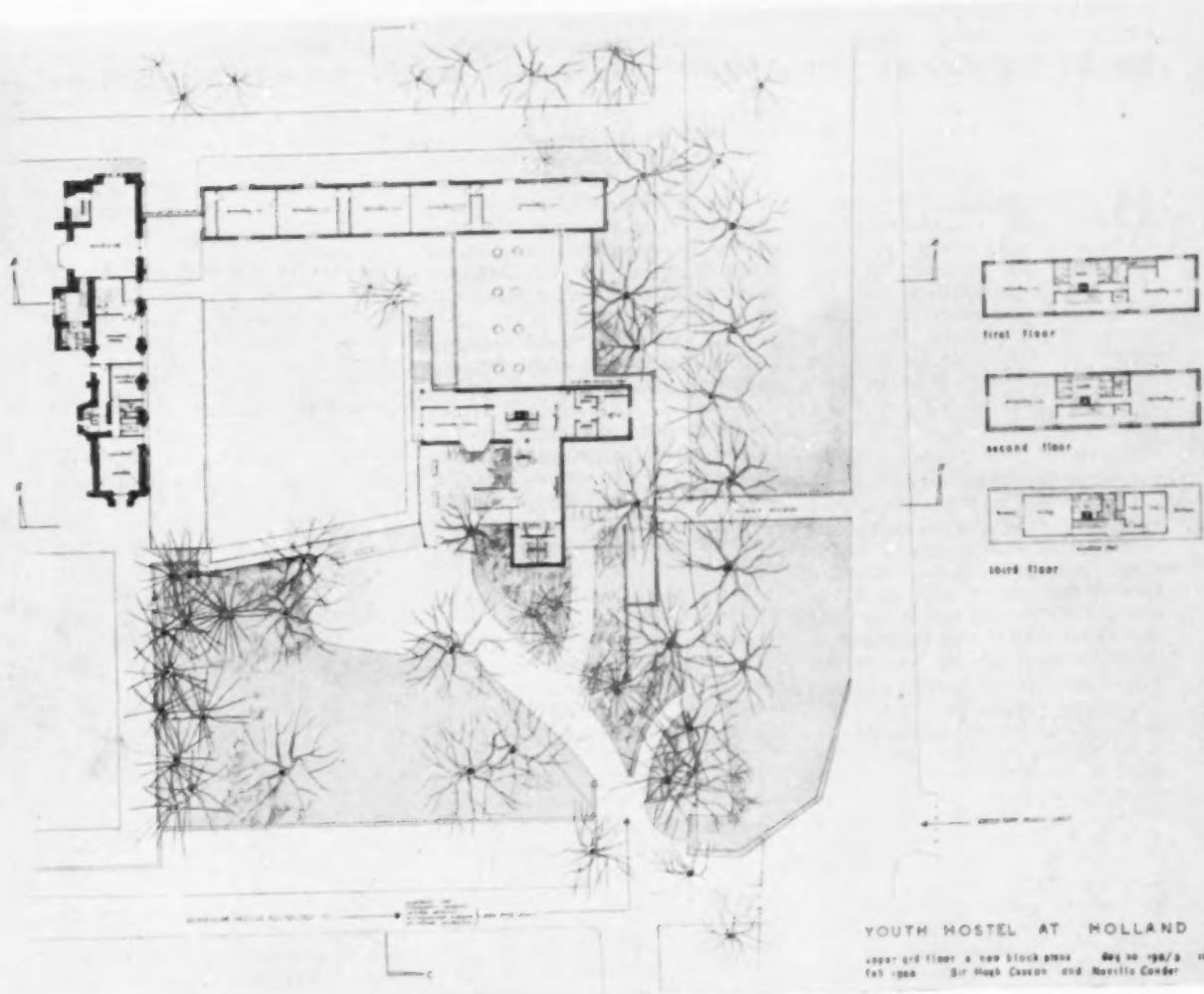


SECTION B-B



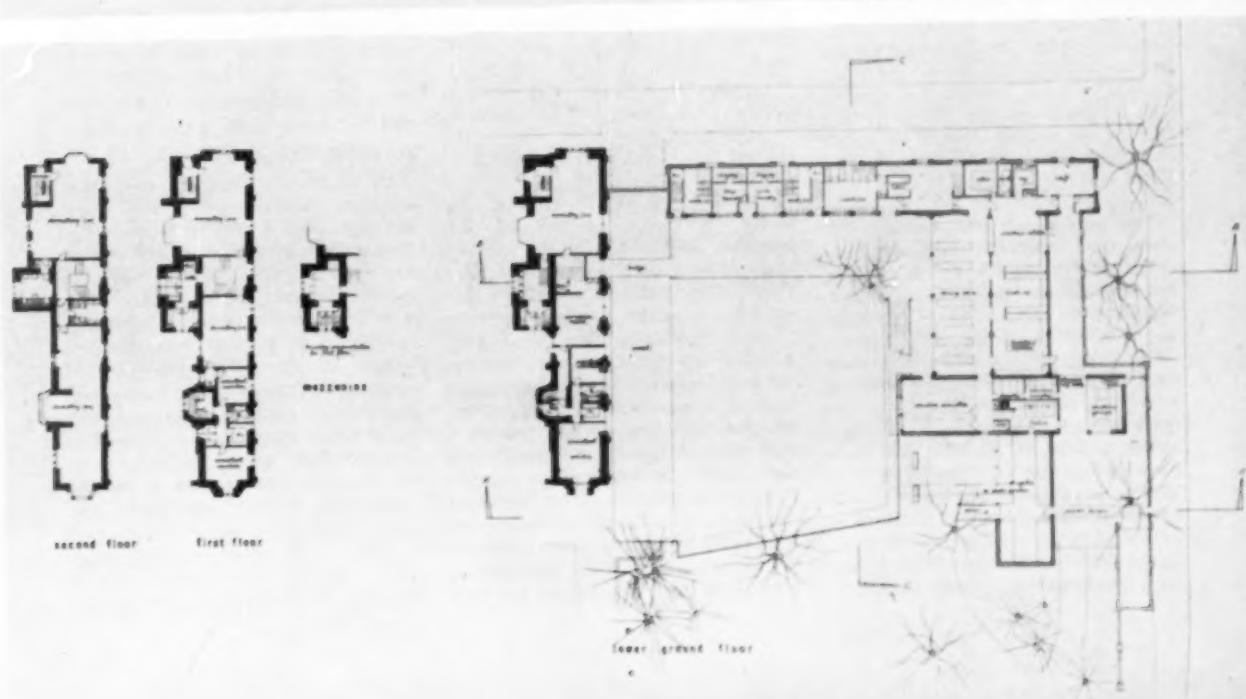
SECTION C-C

PROPOSED YOUTH HOSTEL AT HOLLAND HOUSE, KENSINGTON
ARCHITECTS: SIR HUGH CASSON AND NEVILLE CONDER



YOUTH HOSTEL AT HOLLAND HOUSE

upper ground floor a new block planned by Sir Hugh Casson and Norville Conder



LEGAL COMMENTARY

Some Recent Changes in Law and Administration

By F. H. B. LAYFIELD

DURING the last four months a great many changes have been taking place in the administration and law relating to Housing and Planning. With two exceptions these have not been major changes, but nevertheless are of some importance. Housing, a subject which is never far from the news, have occupied pride of place and it is in this field that two major changes have occurred or are occurring.

Small Dwellings

In May last year the Ministry of Housing introduced a new scheme to assist people who wished to buy a small house for themselves. The details of the scheme was set out in *Circular 42/54*—and as a result over nine hundred local authorities applied to the Minister for his approval to operate the scheme. Broadly speaking the scheme enables local authorities to utilise their powers under Section 5 of the Housing Act, 1949, to guarantee advances made by Building Societies for the purchase of small houses. The Minister has now decided to simplify the scheme and has described the new arrangements in *Circular 45/55* of September, 1955. This is, no doubt, an attempt, among other things, to encourage those local authorities who are not at present operating the scheme to do so. Indeed, the Circular states that "The Minister would be glad if both those authorities who have not replied [to the earlier Circular] and those who have previously decided not to operate the scheme would reconsider the matter in the light of the revised scheme set out in this Circular and Appendixes and notify him of their decision at an early date".

The revised scheme, which will come into operation for new purchases at once, applies to houses whose purchase price or valuation, whichever be the smaller, is £2,500 or less. Where a house is purchased under the scheme the maximum advance depends on when the house was built. If built before 1919 the maximum advance will be 90 per cent, and it will be 95 per cent for those built during that year and after. The interest payable on the advance will normally be that charged at the time of the advance on comparable loans by the Society. The maximum period for repayment is to be 25 years. It

is to be noted that the scheme anticipates that the mortgage deed may contain an interest variation clause which may provide for both the interest and the period of repayment to be varied.

Those who buy their houses privately without the aid of a Building Society or similar body may not always be so well informed as the latter are. It is with such people in mind that the Minister of Housing has recently issued *Circular 54/55*. The circular concerns advice to be given to intending house-purchasers on slum clearance proposals. The Minister observes that

"The renewal of slum clearance makes it necessary for action to be taken to ensure as far as possible that intending house-purchasers do not, in ignorance of the Council's intentions, buy houses likely to be included in a clearance area in the next five years or so or to be the subject of demolition orders. He has specially in mind people who are buying for their own occupation—including sitting tenants."

These are sentiments with which everyone will agree. The circular rightly points out that once a clearance area is declared that fact will normally be published in the press, and it will, of course, be noted in the Local Land Charges Register. The Development Plan may also afford some guidance. Finally, the authority's proposals under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act will be open to inspection when approved. The circular points out that the most difficult stage occurs before a clearance area is declared. But, the circular continues "it would be difficult and probably undesirable for the Council to publicise their intentions to declare a particular clearance area before they actually pass the formal resolution . . . and the Minister does not advocate it."

What, then, does the Minister advocate? He urges Local Authorities to issue a general reminder through the press that they are engaged on a slum clearance programme and "make such other statements from time to time as they think fit." He also urges that they "should advise those who are proposing to buy older houses in the district to make inquiries at the Council offices . . ." It does not seem

likely that any Local Authority will find this Circular strong meat.

Requisitioned Houses

Another class of house which has been the cause of a good deal of concern consists of those that are under requisition. It was the purpose of the Requisitioned Houses and Housing (Amendment) Act, 1955, to ease the problems caused by requisitioning. The Act came into operation on June 6, 1955, and its object according to *Circular 39/55*, is

" . . . to enable Councils to wind up the use of requisitioning for housing purposes by March 31, 1960, and to provide new measures and Exchequer assistance to make this possible, without causing hardship to the families living in the houses."

Those concerned with the operation of this Act will find this a very useful circular. The first part sets out clear and useful guidance to local authorities on the exercise of their powers under the Act. Appendix I contains notes on the Sections of the Act, while Appendix II explains the financial arrangements. Appendix III deals with the retention by the authorities of vacant dwellings or parts of them and sets out the relevant forms. The final Appendix deals with invitations to owners to accept the occupiers as tenants and prints the appropriate forms. This is an unusually clear, full and readable Circular. It is a pity we do not see more like it.

Housing Subsidies

By far the most vexed problem that concerns Housing of almost every type and kind is that of Rents. The first serious attempt since the war to deal with this problem was the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. This complicated piece of legislation related, so far as rents are concerned, almost wholly to privately owned property. Present indications suggest that its complexity has not been matched by effectiveness. Indeed, it seems destined to join the long line of otiose statutes along with its incomprehensible brother the Town and Country Planning Act, 1954.

There now comes an attempt to deal with the public aspect of the Housing Rents problem. At present

Local Authority housing accounts do not balance. Much more is spent on housing than is received from rents and rates on the properties concerned and this tendency has been growing. It is this situation which the present *Housing Subsidies Bill* is intended to improve. Its purpose is to bring local authority housing accounts nearer to a state of balance.

It aims to achieve this by reducing the contributions now paid by the Exchequer and by relieving Local Authorities of their obligation to make parallel contributions out of the rates. There are to be some important exceptions to this general arrangement. The present Exchequer subsidy is to be maintained on houses built for slum clearance. Special arrangements are to be made for houses built in connection with New Towns and Town Development Act Schemes and there are a number of other special cases. There is little point in examining the measure in detail, at this stage, but some things do stand out. This is the first Bill produced by the Ministry for some considerable time which wears the appearance of careful and co-ordinated forethought. Moreover, it seems to be a Bill which is likely to be understood when it becomes law. Certainly it seems to fit intelligibly into the general policy of the Ministry in recent months. Finally, whatever may be thought of the merits of the Bill, its presentation shows a measure of political courage in the Minister undreamt of in the philosophy of his immediate predecessor.

The system of housing allocations to local authorities has also recently been terminated. The Minister, in a letter to Housing Authorities, has said that

"Local Authorities will therefore now be free to determine according to their judgment of local needs, the number of council houses to build in their areas.

"The Minister is sure that, in formulating their future programmes, the Councils will bear in mind the importance of not overloading the building industry."

Slum Clearance

Another serious housing problem, and probably the most dramatic and intractable, is caused by the existence of large numbers of slum houses. These still offer a very serious problem particularly in the great industrial towns. When the Housing Rents and Repairs Act, 1954, was introduced a White Paper was published called "Houses—the next step." In this the

Government declared that they intended at once to begin in earnest on a slum clearance programme. In order to do this, the White Paper observed, every local authority must assess the size of their slum problem and make a plan for demolition and replacement. It was also important to assess the problem facing the whole country. To this end the Act required every local authority to submit their proposals for dealing with slum houses to the Minister by August 30, 1955. The great majority of the detailed returns which the Minister asked for under the Act have now been received and have been published as a White Paper, not unreasonably entitled *Slum Clearance* (Cmd. 9593). This contains a Table which shows the number of permanent houses in each Housing authority's area, and the estimated number of unfit houses and details of their treatment. These figures include those for all authorities in England and Wales less a few whose details were submitted too late for inclusion, notably Southport and Smethwick. Nevertheless the exclusions are mainly small. This document reveals that there are nearly 13 million permanent houses in England and Wales. Of these houses the local authorities estimate that nearly 850,000 are unfit for habitation.

The Ministry is careful to point out that

"The returns represent the best conclusions which local authorities have been able to reach in the light of their local circumstances. There is, however, considerable variation in the information on which they are based: some local authorities have been able to carry out a detailed inspection whereas some have had to rely on broad estimates."

A glance at the detailed figures shows how necessary is this qualification. Yet they are the best figures which we have yet had on this vast and difficult problem, and they certainly can give rise to no complacency. Some of the detailed figures in this White Paper, indeed, give ground for wondering whether the slum problem may not be worse in ten years' time than it is now.

Green Belts

Meanwhile, building new houses goes on apace. Much of this building occurs at the edges of towns. Wider still and wider grow the great towns and even the smaller ones are expanding fast in many instances. This has led in its turn to renewed interest in the idea of Green Belts. This formed the subject of an important Circular (42/55) issued by the Minister of Housing in August last.

The matter was discussed by Desmond Heap in his *Presidential Address* to the Town Planning Institute last month. No one interested in planning should fail to read his clear, stimulating and interesting address. It may safely be recommended even to those who normally shun such reading. Upon this topic he said

"The preservation of green open spaces around built-up areas and the restriction of the tendency of urban areas to spread continually further and further out from a centre which thereby becomes increasingly removed from a breath of country air, is surely one of the fundamentals of planning control. In my opinion the Minister of Housing and Local Government never did a better service to town and country planning than when, in sending his recent Circular 42/55... to local authorities, he emphasised the need to preserve green belts to preserve neighbouring towns from merging with one another and the open countryside becoming separated still further from the centres of large built-up areas."

The circular concerned asks local planning authorities to consider submitting to the Minister proposals for the creation of clearly defined Green Belts

"Inside a Green Belt approval should not be given except in very special circumstances, for the construction of new buildings or for the change of use of existing buildings for purposes other than agriculture, sport, cemeteries, institutions standing in extensive grounds or other cases appropriate to a rural area".

This latter provision conjures up a rather interesting conception of a typical rural area. Existing towns and villages inside a Green Belt should "not be allowed to expand further" the circular continues. This sounds very well, but Mr. Heap pointed out in his Address

"In this connection it is, I think, pertinent to note that according to the Report of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government 1955 (Cmd. 9559 at p. 67) county boroughs wish to have 25 per cent. more land for housing purposes than they have at the present time. Where is this 25 per cent. of additional housing land to be got? — not, I hope, by county borough boundary expansions causing the built-up town to sprawl ever further into the adjacent countryside, eating up the Green Belt as it goes forward".

He, then, pertinently, draws attention

to another passage on p. 63 of the Ministry's *Report* which says

"For county planning authorities, whose areas adjoin over-crowded towns the problem has been where to provide for the 'overspill'; to what extent to allow fringe development round the town and where best to provide for development at some distance from the town. Eagerness for and against possible county borough extensions has undoubtedly influenced planning; but some county borough and county authorities have reached an amicable settlement. Others have found it difficult to do so".

Mr. Heap describes these words as "This intriguing paragraph, which leaves so much unsaid", — and observes that it "is not in itself calculated to inspire confidence in the preservation of green belts in the future". The circular really gets to the crux of the matter when it remarks that the green belt once defined, then

"Even within the urban areas thus defined, every effort should be made to prevent any further building for industrial or commercial purposes; since this if allowed, would lead to a demand for more labour, which in turn would create a need for the development of additional land for housing".

It is by this test that the Green Belt policy will succeed or fail, and it is by this test that it is to date conspicuously failing.

Planning Finance

The Town and Country Planning Act, 1954, revised the system of finance provided previously largely by the 1947 Act. The 1954 Act, among other things, established a new basis for Exchequer Grants to local authorities. These now form the subject of publication by the Ministry of Housing and local Government called "*Explanatory Memorandum on the Revised System of Exchequer Grants to Local Authorities*". This gives a useful description of how grants are to be calculated, what may be included in claims for grants and much else. There are separate sections devoted to grants for Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and for Public Open Spaces.

The aspect of planning finance which interests most private people is, of course, that of compensation. When the 1954 Act which now governs this kind of thing, was passing through Parliament two fears in particular were repeatedly expressed. The first fear was, now that compensation was to be paid for refusal of planning permission, the cost of a refusal would unduly affect planning decisions. The

second and opposite fear was that the sections which permit compensation to be excluded in certain cases would be inequitably used. The Ministry have now issued Circular 40/55 which deals with these two matters, among others.

Dealing with the question of compensation and its effect upon a planning decision the Circular states that

"In considering some applications for permission to develop, authorities will wish to know what would be the cost to public funds of a refusal of permission. In some cases this information will have a bearing on the question whether development ought to be prevented or not, though it is not suggested that it will be the controlling factor".

The circular states that arrangements have been made to enable local authorities to have before them, if they so wish, a provisional indication of compensation payable on refusal when they are considering a planning application. The figure will be supplied on request by the District Valuer. This is a perfectly understandable and reasonable provision but it will plainly want watching.

If you are refused planning permission, payment of compensation may also be refused if certain reasons for refusing permission are given. These reasons are set out in Section 20 of the 1954 Act. These exclusions are certainly capable of abuse. The Circular is very forthright on this point.

"Authorities are asked to ensure that a refusal of permission does not include reasons which will operate to bar a claim for compensation unless, in the circumstances of the case, these reasons are decisive. In other words these reasons should not be specified unless they would have justified refusal had they stood alone, or at least are a really substantial part of the refusal of permission".

The circular discusses the question of prematurity, and of liability to subsidence of flooding, and considers when these terms should be employed.

The circular also has an interesting passage on conditions that may be imposed on the grant of permission.

"To grant permission subject to conditions so onerous as virtually to nullify the permission is nearly always wrong; in such circumstances a plain refusal is to be preferred. The point is of particular importance where the conditions are such as would, by reason of Section 20, exclude compensation under the Act. An example might be where a planning authority felt that they could

properly permit development only at a density so low as to destroy all prospect of an economic return on the land. Conditions restricting the density of development do not qualify for compensation under the Act, and the fairer course in such a case would therefore be to refuse permission outright".

The circular also deals with the recovery of compensation already paid when development is later carried out and with the need for prompt information from local authorities about decisions already given.

Two sets of Regulations affecting local authorities have been made recently under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1954. One is *The Recoveries from Acquiring Authorities Regulations, 1955*. These Regulations deal with cases where the Central Land Board is entitled to recover part of the compensation they paid from the local authority who bought the land. The second set are *The Town and Country Planning (Local Authorities Land: Exceptions to Section 82) (Revocation) Regulations, 1955*. These revoke Regulations made under the 1947 Act. The former regulations are not compatible with the arrangements for the compulsory purchase of certain local authority land under the 1954 Act.

Planning Inquiries

It will be recalled that the Government, earlier this year, promised to establish an inquiry into administrative Tribunals. This body has now been appointed, under the chairmanship of Sir Oliver Franks. Lord Silkin, a past Minister of Town and Country Planning, is among the members. The Committee will doubtless consider planning inquiries among other matters. Meanwhile, as the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Housing observed recently, the number of these inquiries is still rising. It is to be hoped that the Ministry will not wait until the Franks committee has completed its work before anything is done to improve the way in which the inquiry machinery is operated and to improve the resultant decision letters. These letters are at present a strangely mixed bag.

* * *

A change has been made in the date of the Public Local Inquiry which Mr. J. J. Cunningham, Q.C., is to hold into the objections lodged against the proposals contained in the City of Aberdeen Development Plan.

The Inquiry which will be held in the Town House, Aberdeen, will commence at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, January 30, 1956, and not on Monday, January 16, as previously arranged.

IN PARLIAMENT

Slow Progress

The House in committee on the Housing Subsidies Bill is still engaged on Clause 1, after two full days sittings. The clause is the crux of the whole proposal to revise the subsidy rates. The debate on December 13 ended with some amicable exchanges about an allocation of time for the remaining clauses when the Commons return after the Christmas recess.

Most of the discussion so far has consisted of Opposition efforts to continue the higher rates of subsidy. This was sought first for local authorities who had within their boundaries new town development corporations, when it was claimed that difficulties were accentuated by industrial development and higher wages in the new towns. Mr. Deedes, the Parliamentary Secretary, pointed out that in the new towns rents were higher too, and that the development corporations had no large pool of existing dwellings built at cheaper prices. There was no evidence that adjacent local authorities were required to build a higher ratio of houses than others not related to new towns. This amendment was rejected by a majority of 47.

The next claim was for houses built to relieve overcrowding, and here the argument was that overcrowding was a social evil that ought to receive equal attention with slum clearance. The evil was admitted, but the answer was that if something was given priority other things must take second place. Mr. Sandys, who rejected the view that people living in overcrowded conditions would sooner live in slums, said that in some districts the most urgent needs could be met in a few years but in others it was not likely to be overcome for 15 or 20. His hope was that the change in subsidy rates would ensure that slum dwellers would receive a fair share of the new houses that were built, which they had not had so far. To extend the subsidy to all houses built to relieve overcrowding would remove the incentive the Bill sought to create from slum clearance and destroy its whole purpose. This amendment was rejected by a majority of 37.

The third claim was entered on behalf of accommodation for persons from derequisitioned dwellings. Here Mr. Sandys declared his intention to designate without exception as unsatisfactory the hutments and other substandard buildings intended only for makeshift use immediately after the war. He saw no justification for giving houses built to accommodate families from requisitioned properties a different subsidy, since requisitioned houses were part of the general pool of housing accommodation. But he did promise to examine the possibility of making the higher subsidy available in respect of the demolition of temporary houses that had been built on open spaces. This amend-

ment too was rejected, by a majority of 39, and the rest of the Bill was carried over until after Christmas.

Local Authorities' Protests

Mr. Collins asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government, for the names of associations of local authorities from whom he had received communications criticising or protesting against the proposals in the Housing Subsidies Bill; and the number of individual local authorities from whom he had received similar representations. Mr. Sandys told him that they were the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Urban District Councils' Association, the Metropolitan Borough Standing Joint Committee, and 71 local authorities.

Mr. Collins commented that the list included the most important and responsible authorities representing local government. In view of their criticisms, and that of the southwestern executive of the National Housing Council — a non-political body — would the Minister reconsider his policy, stand up to the Treasury, and insist on providing through subsidies housing for people in need? Mr. Sandys observed that it would have been too much to expect that local authorities would welcome a reduction in payments from the Exchequer. (December 13.)

Clearance in Progress

Mr. Sorensen wanted to know how many local authorities were now engaged in slum clearance; and how many houses and households were thus involved. Mr. Deedes, Parliamentary Secretary, said that during 1955, 206 local authorities submitted 608 compulsory purchase or clearance orders, involving 17,190 unfit houses and 57,464 occupants. (December 13.)

Revised Compensation

Revised terms of compensation for unfit houses compulsorily purchased — limited to the purpose of avoiding hardship — are to be authorised by a short Bill which Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Housing and Local Government, has announced his intention of introducing.

In a statement to the House of Commons, he said the Government's broad conclusion, after a review, was that they should adhere to the long-established principle that owners of slum dwellings should, apart from payments for good maintenance, receive no compensation beyond the value of the site. However, some action must be taken to mitigate the acute hardship inflicted in a limited number of cases.

Perhaps the most distressing cases were those of people who, in recent years, have been driven by the extreme housing shortage to buy unsound and substandard dwellings to live in. Although they might have paid sub-

stantial prices for these houses and have kept them in good repair, the law entitled them to compensation at little more than the value of the bare land. The Bill would provide that an owner-occupier, who was today living in an unfit house which he bought since the outbreak of war, should, if the house was compulsorily purchased, demolished or cleared, receive compensation at the same rate as would have been payable had it not been declared unfit. Serious hardship might also arise in the case of a small shop or business which formed part of a dwelling-house. The Bill would provide that, subject to certain qualifying conditions, the occupier, whether owner or tenant, should be compensated for his shop or business at the same rate as he would have received if it had not been declared unfit.

Severe hardship was also caused by the insufficient compensation for houses which, though structurally unfit, had been well-maintained. Where accounts of expenditure could not be produced, the rates of compensation payable under the Housing Act of 1936 were based upon building costs at that time, and had consequently become quite inadequate. The Bill would provide that the Minister may, from time to time by order, adjust these rates to take account of changes in the cost of repairs. The Bill would also extend the scope of these payments to houses subject to individual demolition orders.

The Minister said he had had preliminary consultations with representatives of local authority associations, the London County Council and the Metropolitan Boroughs. While they naturally could not commit themselves before seeing the Bill, they had indicated their sympathy with the object of these proposals. He added in answer to some supplementary questions that while the hardship was acute the number of cases was not large. A sample taken from compulsory purchase orders dealt with by the Department in the past year or so showed that the proportion might be about 5 per cent. The Bill would provide that the changes would take effect from that day. (December 13.)

Advice and Payment

Mrs. Castle asked that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government should accept as ranking for grant the costs incurred by local authorities in adapting British Iron and Steel Federation houses to remove the risk of fire which had been found to arise from their construction. She claimed that the alternatives had been made with the approval of the Ministry, which recognised that the original construction was faulty. Mr. Sandys pointed out that they had been moving into a new form of construction, where absolute certainty was not possible; but it had always been a well-established principle that local authorities were responsible for

making good defects in the houses they owned. The mere fact that the advice was given by the Government, so far as knowledge was available, about which types were satisfactory, did not alter the fact that they were local authority houses. Mr. Monslow said that three fires had occurred in this type of house in Barrow-in-Furness this year. There were 52 authorities who considered that they qualified for grant. Mr. Mitchison said it was only fair that when houses had been built or altered in accordance with the Minister's guidance they should rank for grant. Mr. Sandy's pointed out that the Ministry gave guidance on all sorts of subjects. If they had to pay for everything that was done in accordance with their guidance it would amount to a very big bill. (December 13.)

Accidents at Work

Mr. Moody questioned the Minister of Labour about the number of inspectors assigned to watch and advise on the operation of regulations to avoid accidents in building and civil engineering. Mr. Watkinson, the Parliamentary Secretary, told him that the provisions of the Factories Acts and the regulations applying to building and civil engineering were enforced by the members of the general inspectorate as part of their normal duties. Approximately 30 inspectors had received special instruction on the Building Regulations and, where possible, these dealt with the more important operations. Twelve inspectors were added to the strength of the inspectorate following the making of the Building Regulations and no further increase had been made in the past 12 months. He thought the present arrangements were proving satisfactory. Mr. Moody said that people with first-hand knowledge believed that the inspectorate was still short in numbers. The Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers were much distressed at the increased number of accidents, at their annual meeting a resolution was passed unanimously deplored the shortage of inspectors. Mr. Watkinson agreed that there were always too many accidents, but thought that the figures did not show a large increase. The difficulties might arise from greater mechanisation. He offered to discuss the subject with Mr. Moody. (December 13.)

Cement Prices Stabilised

In a statement on December 15, Sir Malcolm Trustram Eve, independent chairman of the Cement Makers' Federation, said:—

"All the makers of Portland cement have agreed that until at least June 30, 1956, there will be no rise in the present price of cement anywhere in the United Kingdom. [General prices last changed on August 1, 1955.]

"I have been asked to say something of the reason for this decision, of the hope that others may do the same, and of the risks involved in the decision.

"The reason is short but clear; it is that all 10 independently controlled cement makers feel that it has become vital in the public interest that some positive and definite action should be taken to slow down the inflationary spiral. The hope is that other industries will feel able to take similar action—they realise that the effect of their action by itself can only be small but are sure that if it were to start a snowball, really important results would certainly follow. The risks involved are not negligible. Cement makers can undertake to continue to improve the efficiency and quality of their manufacture, but can only ask that others who are responsible for well over one-half of their manufacturing and delivery costs can help by keeping their prices stable.

"Increased production and efficiency have helped so far in keeping down the costs and stabilising the prices of cement. Production is now running at over 1 million tons a month, compared with less than one-half twenty years ago. Prices for cement are delivered prices and these prices averaged over all the United Kingdom are still only about £5 a ton. Until the increase in the price of coal last summer forced a rise nearly all cement prices had remained unchanged for 17 months.

"Why cannot the cement industry therefore *promise* a longer period of stable prices than 6 months? The frank answer is that much more than one-half of the costs are the concern of others. Indeed coal, electric power and transport alone account for nearly one-half of the total costs of a ton of cement. If purchased stores, raw materials and local rates are included the proportion is some two-thirds. Rises in the price of coal and power are directly related to the cost of a ton of cement and cement, though relatively cheap, is heavy, so the cost of transport is necessarily high in a delivered price. Coal and power are publicly owned, so is much of the transport. Cement costs therefore depend to a very large degree on prices fixed by the National Coal Board, the British Electricity Authority, and the British Transport Commission. If cement makers could know for certain that the charges of all these three bodies would not rise for a named period, the period of promise of '6 months at least' might well be extended. Letters have been sent to these three bodies and to the trade unions concerned asking for their co-operation. In the absence of favourable answers cement makers can only wait and see and must reserve the right to look again at their costs halfway through 1956.

"If other industries are able to follow this lead and if publicly owned goods

and services do not rise steeply in price, Portland cement makers feel that they can continue to play their part in stabilising costs over the whole field of construction."

Competition for the Design of Settings for Free-Standing Domestic Fires

A competition has been announced with the purpose of "stimulating thought particularly among architects, builders, industrial and interior designers and others concerned, on the design possibilities of attractive settings for efficient free-standing appliances, and thus encourage their more widespread use."

There are three sections of the competition with a prize of 200gns for the winner of each, for settings of free-standing fires in:—

- A. New low-cost dwellings, e.g. local authority schemes.
- B. New dwellings in which low cost is less important than in A.
- C. Conversion of typical existing settings to enable the free-standing fires to be installed.

Entry forms are obtainable from: The Secretary, The Institute of Fuel, 18 Devonshire Street, Portland Place, London, W.1. The final date for receipt of entries is March 31, 1956. The names of the judges are to be announced.

Board of Building Education

The President of the Institute of Builders, Mr. F. Leslie Wallis, O.B.E., J.P., has received the following letter from the Minister of Education, following the announcement of the donations sent to him last month by members of the L.M.B.A. to finance the new Board of Building Education:

"Dear Mr. President,

I am very glad to hear of the generous donation members of the L.M.B.A. have made to the Institute to assist in financing the Board of Building Education which you have set up.

I believe the Board can play a big part in stimulating interest in education throughout the building industry, and I hope it will not be long before it takes its place among the foremost of the bodies assisting and encouraging the better education of British Industry as a whole.

I should appreciate it if you would keep me informed of the Board's programme and let me know from time to time of its achievements.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) David Eccles"

The amount of the L.M.B.A. donations was £3,228 15s.

POINTS FROM PAPERS

Where does Planning Stand To-Day?

*A paper given to the Town Planning Institute on 8th December
by Sir PATRICK ABERCROMBIE, F.R.I.B.A., P.P.T.P.I., etc.*

IN turning our gaze towards the future of planning, we naturally take our stand on the massive peak of the 1947 Act, flanked on one side by the New Towns Act, on the other by the National Parks Act. This great trinitarian group still stands, though the financial core of its centrepiece has been metamorphosed by the 1954 Act, the New Towns supplemented by the Town Development Act, and the National Parks Act possibly to be modified (in a manner yet unexplored). Nevertheless the Silkinian Formation, like a geological period, dominates the scene. If we criticise it, we do but scratch its surface or again we may note some small human change—a road here over the pass, a tunnel there, an impounded reservoir, a mining village, a youth hostel, a camping site, a conifer plantation: this paper should therefore be regarded as the observations of a pottering rambler, and not the review of a Scientific Surveyor, or a physical Geographer.

I would prefer to call pre-1947 Act planning control as "patchwork" rather than a "system" as defined by one eminent writer on Planning Law.

Planning was to become ubiquitous: despite inadequate powers, cautious schemes, capable of elaboration, already covered most big towns and many urban and rural districts. Now, over the rest, a veneer was laid, which, if somewhat thin, was solidly by universally prepared Surveys.

Though the declared cold, business-like purposes of the 1947 Act contrasted with the breadth of object, warm humanity and artistic interest displayed by the preamble of the 1932 Act, its demand for a universal survey was a triumph for the fundamental aspect of Geddes teaching. A great debt is owed to the Authorities and their Planning Staffs for this new Domesday Book, which might more suitably be called a Dayspring Record.

The Development Plans, which followed, introduced a method of planning by periods. This had been long advocated by Planners, partly, it must be confessed, to mitigate the shock of their more ambitious proposals.

If the first stage of these Development Plans appears bare in the recently veneered areas, it would be only fair to consider it as a new form of interim control, but based on a survey and on the rudiments of a plan. Unwin tried this in his Preliminary Statement. Somewhat bare plans were better than long-lived interim control, floating on nothing visible outside the planner's office.

Rapidity of preparation, however, has its dangers: the limitation to "reasonably firm proposals likely to be carried out within about 20 years" has now, I think, been exploded. For some sort of estimate of growth and cost within a foreseeable period it was perhaps useful: but it was fatal for any long-term policy of central redevelopment or regional dispersal. Possibly some of the early reconstruction plans produced under Lord Reith's policy of boldness had frightened the Treasury.

The Flexibility of Development Plans

Flexibility was a relief to the marmoreal quality of a Planning Scheme, under the 1932 Act. But the phrase "subject to constant review" is a little disconcerting, although the changes are subject to the Minister's approval. An eminent authority recently pronounced that "flexibility does not mean jellyibility" and it is a question of how soon and to what extent a plan of development based upon a careful survey should lose the firmness of its mould and turn into one of those shapes that wobble before they run.

One City, after submitting its Development Plan, changed its mind, and not only proposed building itself on Green Belt land within the City boundary (to avoid exporting population) but offered land in it to private

enterprise. This looked more like infirmity of purpose than flexibility, adjusted to changing circumstances.

The "White" areas in the Development Plans were examples of Flexibility and the Twenty-year Fallacy; they were also aids to the rapid production of the plan. At first, being uncoloured, they attracted little attention and indeed in what are at present remote rural areas, they form a simple background for occasional interim development, which might be expected to endure as "interim perpetual." A completely unforeseen change such as a new town could be inserted into the tranquil scene.

These White areas still have their defenders, even where they march upon existing and restless communities. Says one authority, "the fact is that in these areas no change is expected. If it occurs it is wholly within the control of the Planning Authority." In my view such areas of virtually "undetermined" zoning are a direct incitement to marauding developers, whether public authorities (not necessarily neighbourly) or private enterprise. Against these determined piecemeal attacks it is most difficult to safeguard Farmland and to preserve Green Belts. Not long ago I wrote a somewhat pessimistic article on the disappearance of the Green Belt, in which I traced the history of a hypothetical case under the Town Development Act. There was indeed a real danger that except in the case of Greater London and one or two other places, the Green Belt, as an instrument of positive planning, would drop out of the planners' repertory.

Now all is changed! Exactly three years after my pessimistic article the Minister has issued his "Green Belt" Circular, *post hoc, non propter hoc*. Here is a clear example of the right sort of flexibility giving greater definition to the vacant parts of Development Plans.

Green Belt limits which affect the Regional location of overspill and "prevent the further unrestricted sprawl of the Great Cities." This was the all-pervading Green background that Unwin postulated to "red" islands of building.

The Absence of Regional Planning

But the fault—a general absence of Regional Planning—lies really in the Act itself. Nothing gave greater satisfaction at the time of its passing than the reduction in the number of Planning Authorities. How simple, the two-fold group of Counties and County Boroughs and yet how utterly wrong, with the Interim Report of a brilliant Boundary Commission before the Minister! What a paradox that he should have fallen for the Lord Lieutenants and so perpetuated the rivalries of the Lord Mayors of the Cities and Chairmen of the County Councils. How many counties make a satisfactory unit of planning when deprived of their County Boroughs and what overlapping with neighbouring counties?

This retrogression contrasted with the real attempt in pre-1947 Act times to divide the country, especially in the more urbanised parts, into geographical regions with advisory joint committees, later to be subdivided into executive boards. The Regional Reports on the shelves of our Library are a testimony to this attempt to realise the Geddes ideal of geographical planning. Only a few fragments of joint committees remain, and the South Lancashire and North Cheshire Advisory Planning Committee, with its Manchester executive board comprising the County Borough and twelve neighbouring authorities together with fifteen further Regional Planning Boards, lost their planning powers and were automatically dissolved under the Act. The Lancashire County Plan now looks like a moth-eaten blanket holed by 17 County Boroughs which are independent units, distinct from the County and distinct from each other. I believe I am right in saying that no Advisory Area Committees have been

set up and no New Town agreed upon. There has indeed been consultation but not co-operation: I refer you to Dr. Johnson's definition of these two actions:

Co-operation: to labour jointly with another to the same end.
Consultation: the act of consulting, secret deliberation.

'Many things,' he quotes from Clarendon, 'were there consulted for the future, yet nothing was positively resolved.'

In place of continuous co-operation, we have periodic dog-fights: these encounters are admirably staged, with forceful Town and County Clerks supported by pugnacious Counsel, plausible witnesses, and a gentle Inspector holding the ring. But you hardly get a calm and constructive result, with, for example, two such fundamentally opposed propositions as a North Cheshire Green Belt versus a couple of Towns of 40 to 60 thousand inhabitants. The Ministry, it is true, is there to decide on points, after the fight. Where there is a recently prepared and generally adopted report—as in the case of Northumberland, Clyde Valley, West Midlands or Greater London, there is something to go upon; though a Regional report needs continual review by a joint Committee, e.g. does the Midlands Region now require New Towns? It is clearly more than dove-tailing that is required, with 154 Development Plans.

Once again, however, the Minister has intervened in person and the Chairman of the Basildon Corporation has been appointed to assist him in solving, as a combined operation, the overriding problem of decongestion and overspill, which can only be achieved by a return to Regional Planning.

The Barlow Report

The Minority Report of Barlow indeed proposed something of a more permanent and even independent character. But as this was signed by a Conservative, a Labour and a Liberal Commissioner, it was inevitably too reasonable to be accepted. It recommended a Commission of Research which should produce proposals for National Development and should present Annual Reports direct to Parliament. The Commission was to conduct research into various natural resources, land, agriculture, mineral amenities, etc., that might be affected by national development: to co-ordinate information on location of industry and the distribution of the industrial population in the possession of various Government Departments and to give advice to Government, Local Authorities, Industrialists and others as to problems of planning with special reference to industrial location: and to prepare a general scheme of Development, subject to constant revision.

I am, of course, fully aware of the immense amount of research which Ministries have carried out, but I nevertheless think that this Commission could have focused and publicised a stable Governmental policy and have harmonised Ministerial actions.

Barlow itself should not be forgotten. Though the Board of Trade was written into the 1947 Act, it has used its position to encourage far distant rehabilitation areas: instead of steering regional migration of industry to the New Towns of Greater London. Whereas Luton has been stimulated out of all agreed London regional size, in spite of the drawback of impossible drainage; but locally compensated by the lure of County Borough status. Every increase in population means more sewage effluent for London's water-drinkers. But much more serious is the increase of Factory space allotted to the London Region as a whole. What has neatly been called 'Barlow orthodoxy' is being dropped: in 1954 London took 29% of new space of the national total, the rate of increase of the ratio in the last ten years from 2.2% being practically continuous.

There is also the loophole for the smaller schemes which not only escape the Board's approval, but whose vacated sites can be reused for industry. This is a considerable proportion of the total.

Land Use

Equally important nationally with the location of industry is the use of open land for development other than agriculture, commonly described as the Loss of Agricultural Land, for producing home-grown food. The

reverse of the medal is the extent to which Building Development should be concentrated, in accordance with a just standard of urban densities.

No aspect of planning is more complicated or controversial: as a result of a resolution passed by the B.A. at Exeter an attempt is at last being made to ascertain the present use of all land and to calculate the annual changes of user that are actually taking place. Next, and of course much more important, we must determine how much land we can afford for Food production and how much for Urban living conditions, mineral workings, Service Departments, etc. This has been called a Land Budget.

In the meanwhile, a recent decision in the County of London by the Minister has rejected a density of over 300 persons per acre and upheld the density (proposed by Forshaw and myself) of 136 persons: this again has been abused as too high even for Urban London. It is, of course, comforting that all sides agree in abusing sprawl; but it still goes on and indeed has shown a recent resurgence, to be curbed, it is hoped, by the Minister's drive for Green Belts, supported by the stiffened-up control of the Planning Authorities. There is not only sprawl but the extravagance of layout, wasteful of land without benefiting living conditions. 'Wasteful layouts means smaller gardens and costly road works and public services—apart altogether from producing poor design.' There is room for further research into economic group design. The return of Private Enterprise introduces another danger of extravagance—the plot, larger than the densities of the planning map, may sell the house but squander the land. We may have to enforce the minimum densities. There is, however much some people dislike it, a distinction between Urban, New Town and Rural conditions.

Like every town and country planner I can be accused of being Mr. Facing-both-ways. But I believe that when we get the real facts in true perspective we can meet the needs of good urban living and rural production with intrepidity, provided we exercise planning, firm, economic and balanced. I see no reason to reduce urban space standards.

The Act of 1954

For all these purposes, great and small, whether this blessed Plot be that of all England or of a single Englishman's house, the instrument with which we are to face the future of planning is the Act of 1954. It was introduced by the late Minister with warm expressions of Good Neighbourliness, in the description of what positive good it could do, without incurring compensation (the exclusion of which, on just grounds, is the acid test of planning powers).

There remains from the scrapheap, the change by which compensation (where it is payable) is to be found from National in place of Local funds. But there is a difference between the payment of, say, 100 million pounds to secure proper planning (e.g. circum- and inter-Urban Green belts) into aggrieved owners' pockets and the purchase for three times that sum of an asset, namely, the development value of the whole country. The overspill additions to innumerable small towns which are shortly expected to begin (under the Town Development Act) would have produced, as a result of public action, a rapid enhancement of value of the National estate (however it might have been realized). This is not a nostalgic or even a historic paper: but I cannot refrain from paying my tribute to Justice Uthwatt and Gerald Eve for so brilliantly reporting at Barlow's request.

Anyhow compensation is pegged and centrally paid. But local authorities have always been a little suspicious of Government relieving them of the financial burdens which fall on them as a result of what they themselves consider necessary actions; and perhaps they were not altogether surprised at the subtly worded second paragraph of the July Circular 40/55. This looks like the shadow of Treasury control over planning, cast on this sunny prospect.

'In considering some applications for permission to develop, authorities will wish to know what will be the cost to public funds of a refusal of permission. In some cases this information will have a bearing on the question whether development ought to be allowed or not, though it is not suggested that it will be the controlling factor.'

POINTS FROM PAPERS

This is followed by a description how to obtain 'a rough indication of the compensation which would be payable under the Act if the permission sought were refused.' If their consciences are clear, that they are not doing anything extravagant, I would have thought that they would not be particularly anxious to know the cost. It would be a pity if the bugbear of compensation were to dominate the scene, as under the 1932 Act; and we have definite assurance from the late Minister that proper planning will not be subjected to financial expediency.

I would say then that provided the actual claims for compensation are courageously faced, provided the exclusions of compensation are persisted in (including prematurity of Development on new land, change of User on built-up land and prevention of Building on bad land) together with the normal legal ancillaries, this twin Silkin-Macmillan Act should give us an instrument capable of responding to the music played by the orchestra of Planning authorities under the baton of the Minister.

The Town Development Act

Auxiliary to this major instrument, is the Town Development Act, which might be called a Commando policy of direct action. Despite its favour with Parliament and public today, no planning machinery was ever devised of a less methodical character. The dispersal programme of the Greater London Plan (the begetter of the Bill) contemplated three times as many people to be accommodated in expanding Existing towns as in the New Towns. Many of these were, of course, to be included within the Regional pattern; but others were left for dispersal further afield. These required some machinery less top-heavy than that of the New Towns. The new Act was intended primarily to arrange a mutual exchange, financial, operational and technical.

But it has been expanded into a means of national distribution of overspill, organized first from London and then from other cities, suffering from fatty degeneration of the heart. An energetic member of the L.C.C. visited, I believe, sixty welcoming intakers; the most distant, the small hunting country town of Nantwich, beckoned him across the one hundred and fifty miles of the English industrial coffin, while Manchester, less adventurous, thought Congleton too far off. The danger of an increasing criss-cross of negotiations, of competing inducements to intakers and a possible putting-up of their terms, is apparent; and London has consequently been limited to an area south-east of a line from the Wash to the Solent. It may be that this policy suits the English genius for extemporization and unco-ordinated action, under the watchful eye of a Minister to ensure that things do not go too far wrong. But again, some concerted regional action might save a wastage of effort in trial and error. On the other hand, the friendly atmosphere of the negotiations between exporter and intaker is admirable and should lead to a permanent basis of co-operation, in place of the periodic dog-fight.

Towns Selected for Expansion

The Town Development Act inevitably leads one to think of those small existing Towns, about to be invaded (at invitation, it is true) by outsiders, residential and industrial. This is not a simple affair of building houses and factories on well-selected sites. There is much more to a small town than that. I have in mind a Midland County, part intensively industrialised, part containing some of the most beautiful 'wild' scenery in the country and part ancient, agricultural England, encompassing a cathedral city: there are forty or so towns in this county, each worthy of a study by Patrick Geddes or Thomas Sharp. It is no disparagement to say that the County Planning Officer, excellent technician and administrator though he be, cannot get down to these forty cases for quiet study. Probably the day of the printed and illustrated report—so valuable yesterday—is past; but the need for the abilities that produced those volumes is equally acute—I hope a courageous county will commission some

of our consultant planners, who are ready and available for this work. Otherwise there is danger that the smaller towns may lose their identity in a series of Town Maps, the community spirit superseded by a legal diagram.

The Development Plans, also, of the larger populations appear to have played down the Community concept. It is true that lists of Neighbours are given in the Analysis, boundaries faintly indicated on the Plan, population, acreage and density shown, all reduced to a bare formula included in a so called 'Box': no focal point, no organic planning. It is perhaps intended, at a later stage, to build the concept into the structure more integrally. Lansbury was the first example of what neighbourhood planning in a reconstruction area means: it is equally prominent in the New Towns, probably as a reaction to pre-war Becontree. Professor Simey's report on Dudley shows upon what delicate and often intangible factors the success of planning depends.

The vast extent of work of the Development Plans is now being examined by the Minister for approval and for the authoritative statement on the existing and proposed use of Land, already mentioned. The Minister has also to harmonise and dovetail the two groups of schemes. It is evident that much alteration will be required as a result of the destination of overspill programme, which has yet to be worked out regionally in the more highly urbanised areas and for far-flung dispersal.

There is also the more detailed and positive treatment of the White areas, or at any rate those in the neighbourhood of industrial communities and conurbations. And here I must ask that no offence be taken at the use of the word veneering applied to much of this open land—there is no reference intended to the two characters in *Our Mutual Friend*: Dickens was encompassed by Victorian mahogany furniture, more solid and comfortable than beautiful. He did not realise the beauty and possibilities of veneer.

Civic Design

It is not indeed sufficient for planning to take care of the comfort, health, convenience and economics of our environment. The essential element of design must inform the whole, from its inception to its realisation in three dimensions: Architecture, Landscape Design, layout of Village and Residential area and Rural preservation must be forthcoming: this is something much more difficult than the preparation of a Development Plan, for we are here concerned with the creation of visual works of art.

And the planner, as such, whether of County or County Borough, has usually only indirect influence over the result. But I believe it to be his duty to attempt some forecast, if only to assure himself that his planning is capable of producing good building and landscape. He is certain of abuse, whatever he shows; it will either be branded as old-fashioned junk, as were the Royal Academy proposals for the City of London; or as ultra-modern fantasy as were the Polish designs for the later scheme; or too ambitious as was the Barbican. It is not enough to put up some formula for heights or floor space; the formula may be unassailable, but its realisation by an indifferent architect may be universally condemned.

But I doubt if it is the duty of the planner to press for his own design. That has the look of wanting to be an artistic dictator. It is not easy to decide how far he should go. Is it a feeble attitude to take that the planner will get the quality of treatment which the architectural talent of the day warrants—a sort of average?

I do not propose to discuss the various degrees between complete freedom for all and an autocratic design; but there is much to be said for a 'selected panel' whose common aims are expected to produce a harmonious result without interference. This method has been practised at Lansbury and to a less extent in the New Towns. In the City of London there is no selection and the average does not appear to have satisfied the nation: we await the touch of the master hand.

I have, of course, been speaking chiefly of the concentrated problems of civic design at the Centre where we have not attained the instinctive harmony cum variety of

the Medieval or Georgian City or the piquancy of an occasional discordant shout interpolated into an urban conversation which Mr. Brett welcomed some time ago; the shouts are apt to drown the talk.

When it comes to building in the country or village I am still in favour of the elected panel, provided there is real landscape as well as architectural advice. This is really the opposite of the selected panel—the latter is operative, the former critical and democratic.

The Ministry, recognizing the crudeness of a Manual of Instruction, invited three distinguished planners to contribute to a volume of "essays on the subject of design in relation to the building and rebuilding of towns, of suburbs and of villages." Thus while the approval of the Development Plan establishes the broad legal powers, the subtle sense of design can be at work. To quote from the final paragraph of this volume: "The designer's task is to seek out the local or regional or metropolitan character of a place, and show how it can be extended and intensified by means of new buildings and landscape, street furniture and pavings, town planning and civic decoration" (Holford).

Outside the operation of the Acts and the work of technical Planners, there are what might be described as the Wardens of Town and Country—Civic Societies and the C.P.R.E. With a code of practice and behaviour built up during the past 30 years they have supplemented and reinforced legal powers, in the interests of what is comprehensively called "Amenity". What can happen under planning when this Wardenship is relaxed can be seen in the recent publication "Outrage" which continues the exposure made by Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis in "England and the Octopus".

This movement for "Preservation" in its broadest sense is in full activity; much more highly organised in the country than in the town.

In this rambling survey I have intentionally confined myself to the main mountain mass; the two outlier peaks, National Parks and New Towns, require a separate visitation, as they work under powers distinct from but closely connected to the principal twin Acts. In many ways they represent the most interesting contribution to current planning practice (for even National Parks are quite demonstrably our own) which this country has made. It can confidently be said that in spite of difficulties, misunderstanding and some legal and administrative shortcomings, they are flourishing, as may be seen from their last published reports. In their technique they are not only sufficient for themselves but are influencing general planning elsewhere, and not only in this country!

The Prospect for the Future

The object of asking where planning stands to-day is surely to attempt some forecast of the future. A prophecy is always more difficult than a historic back-look. The one can hardly escape being, in some sort, propagandist: a history may have at most a subjective bias. So Professor Myles Wright, in his admirably documented article "The First Ten Years," can be much more definite and even objective in a description of what has been accomplished.

I believe, however, we should agree in the more hazardous task of estimating from the present position of planning what is the prospect for the future. It might be described as one of cautious and conditional optimism.

There is much to be done in addition to the preparation and approval of the Development Plans and the achievement of the first Stage, indicating in a very general way the manner in which the Planning Authorities propose that the land of this country should be used. Statutory Planning, as I have said, is a continuing process; it is no longer the control necessary to obtain conformity to a fixed Plan. And it is now conceded that this process will be a long one, coinciding in the case of London with the 50 years proposed by the 1943 County Plan.

I also believe that a Master Plan, for the whole country, its Regions, Cities, Towns, Villages and Rural areas, is the necessary preliminary to statutory Development Planning.

May I conclude by referring to the County of London Development Plan approved on 7th March, 1955? Certain fundamental principles and proposals of the County of

London Plan of 1943, were borne in mind in preparing the Council's Development Plan, which was regarded as being a stage towards the realisation of the Council's long-term planning objectives. With the Minister's decision there is therefore for the first time a Plan having statutory authority and applicable to the whole of the county. In the Minister's words, "It will, I am sure, provide a sound and wisely conceived framework, within which the life of London can continue to advance and develop in the years ahead."

The L.C.C. Plan, with which that of the City is combined, is embedded in Greater London, with its co-ordinated pattern of New Towns, Green Belt, Transport, etc., forming a group of Development Plans now before the Minister. There is no longer a joint Committee of Greater London Planning Authorities or a defined Regional boundary. There is, however, direct administration by the Ministry.

Two major aspects, moreover, remain to be dealt with, before the future of London can be regarded with some degree of equanimity—the still incoming invasion of industry—and the long-distance destination of overspill.

I make no apology for ending on this London note. It has taken twelve years to translate a visionary Master Plan into a working Development Plan, and I consider that this is the most coherent example of planning preparation which this country has to show. It may be said, in fine, that the position to-day, in the world of Planning, though reasonably favourable, is by no means absolutely secure.

Notes from the Minutes of the R.I.B.A. Council Meeting Held on 6 December

The Honorary Fellowship

The Right Hon. Sir Anthony Eden K.G., M.C., M.P., has accepted the Council's nomination for election as an Honorary Fellow.

The Honorary Associateship

Sir Frederick Handley Page, C.B.E., and Mr. Pembroke Wicks, C.B.E., L.I.B., Registrar, A.R.C.U.K., have accepted the Council's nomination for election as Honorary Associates.

British Architects' Conference, 1960

The Council have accepted an invitation from the South Wales Institute of Architects to hold the British Architects' Conference in 1960 at Cardiff.

Architectural Copyright

The Council completed their consideration of problems in connection with the transfer of copyright by an architect commissioned for work by a local authority. In the course of correspondence with the County and City and Borough Architects' Societies, it was agreed to re-affirm the principle that the ownership of copyright is vested in the architect. Any transfer of ownership should be the subject of a separate agreement, or clause in the main agreement, and should involve some consideration additional to, and separate from the architect's remuneration for his work as covered by the appropriate Scale of Professional Fees.

Entrance Fees

The Council recalled the resolution passed at their meeting in April, 1955 whereby all applications for the Fellowship after 1st January, 1956 must be considered by the Fellowship Examiners and Associates on election to the Fellowship would no longer be required to pay an entrance fee. In order to prevent any misunderstanding during the transitional period it was agreed that all Associates applying for election and being elected as Fellows under the old procedure without scrutiny by the Fellowship Examiners would be required to pay the entrance fee of 5 guineas even if the formality of their election does not take place until after the 1st January, 1956.

CURRENT MARKET PRICES (LONDON)

(These prices apply to material purchased in the quantities named or otherwise as might be expected for a new building of moderate size).

December, 1955

AGGREGATES AND SAND

1½ inch—all in—ballast	23/-	Yard cube
inch do. do. do.	24/-	delivered
inch screened shingle	21/-	(in five yard
inch do. do. do.	22.9	loads or
inch granite chippings	45/-	more)
Sharp washed sand	23.2	
Pit sand	22.3	
Building sand	22/-	
Broken brick	18.6	
1½ inch shingle	22/-	
Cartage of muck	8/-	

BUILDING MATERIALS AS DESCRIBED, CENTRAL LONDON

CEMENTS packed in paper bags	Per ton
Portland in 6 ton lots	101/6
Do., from 1 ton to 5 tons 19 cwt do.	113/6
Do., Rapid hardening (6 ton lots)	112/-
Do. (but 1 ton to 5 ton 19 cwt)	124/-
Cement "Aquadcrete" (do.)	146/-
Do., "417" or "Polar" (do.)	146/-
Do., "White" 1 ton (lots)	262/-

LIME—	132—(1 ton loads) deliv'd
Hydrated including	129.6 (2 3 do.) do.
and paper	119.6 (4 5 do.) do.
Ground bags	117.6 (6 do.) do.

PLASTER—	
Keenes, coarse, pink (2 ton lots)	198/9 ton
Do. do. white (do.)	204/3 do.
Sirapite, do. (2 ton to 3 ton 19 cwt lots)	147/3 do.
Do. finish (do.)	155/3 do.
Hardwall, do. (do.)	158/9 do.
Plaster, coarse, pink (do.)	145/- do.
Do. do. white (do.)	153/3 do.
1in Plaster baseboard (25 to 75 yards)	3/- Yard Sup.
1in Do. (150 to 299 yards)	2.8 do.
3½in Jute scrim (100 yd. roll)	8/- each
Cow hair (under 3 cwt)	97.6 cwt.

FIRECLAY—	
Stourbridge, loose (1 ton lots)	168.9 ton delivered
Fire cement	12.3 14 lb.

BRICKS

BACKING BRICKS (in truck loads)—			
Flettons	113/-	per	1,000 delivered
Do. Keyed	115/-	do.	
Do. bullnose	133/-	do.	
Blue wirecuts	510.6	do.	
White	192/-	do.	
Southwater engineering (No. 1)	379/-	do.	
Firebricks—2½ inch	72.6	per	100 delivered
Do. 3 inch	89.6	do.	

STOCK BRICKS—			
Mild stocks	181.6	per	1,000 at Works
Second, do.	216/-	do.	
First, do.	237/-	do.	
Add for delivery—approx. 45/- per 1,000 in lorry loads.			

FACINGS (ex truck or lorry)—

Rustics	138/-	per	1,000 delivered
White	210/-	do.	
Blue pressed, 2½in	562/-	do.	
Do. bullnose	576/-	do.	
Reds (Multi sand faced)	310/-	do.	
White glazed stretchers	1504/-	do.	
Do. headers	1480.6	do.	
Do. bullnose	1880/-	do.	
Do. double stretchers	1997.6	do.	
Do. double headers	1821.3	do.	
Breeze fixing bricks	29/-	per 100	
Fire tiles and lumps	33/-	foot cube	
Wall ties—8" x 1" x ½", black	63/-	per cwt.	
Cement mortar (1 : 3) hand-made	92/-	yard cube	

BRICKLAYERS' SUNDRIES—

AIR BRICKS	9 x 3in	9 x 6in	9 x 9in	12	9in
Iron	each	2.1	3.4	5/-	6.8
Galvanized do.	do.	3.6	5.10	8.8	11.7
Terra Cotta	do.	1.3	2.7	5.6	10.10
Chimney pots, Terra	1ft	2ft	3ft	4ft	
Cotta (11 to 25)	do.	7.3	12.8	28.9	49.9

PARTITIONS—

18in x 9in Blocks keyed for plastering.	2in	2½in	3in
Per yard super in 6 ton lots	3.9	4.4	5.3
In solid clinker including any half blocks	3.11	4.7	5.3
In cellular clinker blocks	3.11	4.7	5.3
In hollow clay blocks	4.4	4.7	5.4

Clinker blocks in small quantity 5.7 6.7 7.11
Intermediate quantities in all types may be had at intermediate prices.
Smooth in lieu of keyed faces extra cost per side 3d. per yd. super

SINKS—

Fireclay white glazed in and out—standard quality	24 x 18in	30 x 18in	30 x 20in
London pattern, no overflow,	72.6	90.9	96/-
6in deep			
Belfast, plain edge, 10in deep	84.3	143.9	192.9

FLUE LININGS, PLAIN, CIRCULAR—

	Foot lineal	Each
9in diameter	3.11	11.9
10in do.	4.11	14.9
12in do.	9.5	28.3
9in diameter, beaded end, 12in high		5.4

FLUE PIPES AND FITTINGS—

	4in	5in	6in
Heavy asbestos type, 6ft length	15.3	21/-	26.6
Do. 3ft. length	7.8	10.6	13.3
Do. bends	5.9	7.3	8.8
Light asbestos type, 6ft length	12.6	15.9	21/-
Do. 3ft length	6.3	7.11	10.6
Bends	4.7	5.9	6.11
Baffles	12.5	14.9	15.8

DRAINAGE GOODS

GLAZED STONEWARE STANDARD LIST

	4in	6in	9in
ORDINARY TYPE—EACH			
Pipes in 2 feet lengths	1.8	2.6	4.6
Bends	2.6	3.9	10.14
Junctions (4in on 4in, 6in on 6in, 9in on 9in)	4.2	6.3	13.6
Gullies with 4in outlets	6.3	6.10½	11.3
4in horizontal inlets	2.1	3.1	5.1
4in vertical ditto	3.1	4.1	7.1
Black iron grids	9d	1.5	2.9

Adjustment to Current Cost

2 ton lots Less than 2 ton lots

or more 100 pieces Under 100 pieces

"Best" pipes and fittings. Percentages to add 85% 117½% 130%
Further percentages to be independently added in respect of: British Standard pipes, etc., 10. "Best" Tested pipes, 37½. British Standard Tested, 47½.

IRON DRAINAGE GOODS—

	4in	6in
Cast iron pipes, 9 feet long	71.3	105/-
Do. 6 feet do.	51.2	79.10
Do. 4 feet do.	39.8	62/-
Do. 2 feet do.	24.3	36.10
Short bend	17/-	44.4
Junction	29.7	61.10

CURRENT MARKET

PRICES (Continued)

DRAINAGE GOODS—Continued

GULLEY PARTS—

	4in	6in	
Traps, high level, invert	29/7	80/1	each
Inlet, bellmouth pattern	15/8	31/2	do.
Do. with one vertical branch	27/2	50/9	do.
Do. with two do.	73/8	107/2	do.
Extra for Sealed cover	9/6	12/3	do.

RAINWATER SHOES

	4in	6in	
With vertical inlet and rebated top	39/3	78/2	each
Extension piece, 6in high	20/5	20/5	do.
Flat loose coated grating	4/-	4/-	do.
Loose solid coated cover	5/5	5/5	do.

MANHOLE CHANNELS, WHITE GLAZED—

	4in	6in	9in
Straight, 2 feet long	16/6	23/6	40/-
Taper, ditto	27/6	27/6	41/3
Bends, main, half section	31/9	45/6	74/6
Ditto, branch, ditto	19/3	27/6	—
Ditto, ditto, three quarters, ditto	27/6	42/9	—
Junctions, single	26/3	45/6	—
Ditto, double	35/9	62/-	—

BROWN GLAZED CHANNELS—

Based on standard list (less than 100 pieces)

	4in	6in	9in
Half-round main channel (2ft long)	2.9	4/2	7/4
Extra for stop ends	2.9	4/2	7/4
Extra for outlets	5/5	8/2	—
Channel bends with splayed ends	8/2	12/3	—
Three-quarter section do.	10/10	16/4	—

MANHOLE COVERS—

	Black
24 x 18in Light foot traffic	29/6 each
Do. Strong do.	40/- do.
Do. Light car traffic	105/- do.
Do. Road traffic	160/- do.

SUNDRIES—

	Galvanized
Manhole steps	8/2
4in Mica valve fresh air inlets (L.C.C.)	28/- do.
Plumber's hemp	7/3 per lb.
Gaskin, caulking	1 1/2 do.
Canvas backed hair felt, 4in wide	9d. per ft. run

ROOFING MATERIALS

WELSH SLATES (delivered)—

Sizes in inches	per 1,000	Quantity	
		Full Loads	100 to 499
22 x 11	1920/-	262/-	34/6
20 x 10	1700/-	230/-	30/3
18 x 10	1240/-	163/-	21/6
16 x 10	1020/-	132 2	17 6
14 x 9	780/-	90 9	12/-
14 x 4 1/2	347/-	40 3	5/3

TILES (Broseley and Staffordshire)—

	per 1,000	per 100	per doz.
10 1/2 x 6 1/2 Machine made	280/-	39/-	
Do. hand made, sand faced	350/-	46/9	
Hips, valleys and angles	31/-	per dozen	
Plain concrete tiles	177/-	19/6	

Sheeting asbestos corrugated, 6in pitch

	7 6 yard super
4 1/2 x 16 gauge, drive screws (galvanized)	17/- gross
7 1/2 x 1 1/2 hook bolts and nuts (do.)	51/6 do.
Washers, round, flat galvanized	4 9 do.
Do. do. bituminous	2/- do.

ROOFING FELT—

	1 - Yard Super
Sanded bitumen felt (55lb)	1 1/2 do.
Ditto, but 75lb in weight	1 6 do.
Inodorous felt, best quality	3/- do.
Ditto, second quality	2 4 do.
Underlining	1 8 do.
Sheathing	1 8 do.
Galvanized felting nails	2/- lb.

PRECAST CONCRETE LINTOLS—

1 : 2 : 4 : 1 in material, finished with fair exposed faces, including all form-work, and one 1 in diameter mild steel rod reinforcement to each 4 in in width.

Per foot lineal delivered to site

4 1/2 x 6in	9in x 6in	9in x 9in	13 1/2 in x 9in	18in x 9in
4/-	6/-	7/8	9/6	11/6

STONE

PER FOOT CUBE in random blocks not exceeding 20ft cube in each, free on rail London.

Monks Park 8/- St. Aldhelm 9/-

Portland brown Whitbed 8 3/4

Other stone but delivered to sites. Doultong 8/9, Beer 8/3

TIMBER

Softwood—sawn—random lengths.

	Per Standard	Per cubic foot
Carcassing quality	£105	12/8
Joinery quality	£120 and up	13/4
Plain edged unsorted flooring, per square	90/-	110/-

1 in insulating wall board (250 yards) 4 1/2 yard super.
Larger quantities cost less, and smaller quantities more.

SUNDRIES—

	Dia.	3in	6in	9in
Black hexagon bolts, nuts and washers. Each	1 in	7d	10d	1/-
	1 in	11d	1 1/2	1 1/6
	1 in	1 3	1 1/7	1 11/11
Sashline, hemp, good quality	No. 6	No. 8	No. 10	
Per Yard Run	9d	1 1	1 1/4	
Floor brads		68/-	per cwt	
Cut Clasp Nails		71/-	per cwt	
Steel ordinary screws	1"	No. 8 3/-	2"	No. 8 5/2
Brass, ditto	Do. 10/2	Do.	17/10	gross

HARDWOOD—

	Per ft	super	Per
Prime	1 in	1 in	ft cube
African mahogany	2/4	2/6	28/-
Honduras ditto	3/3	4/-	50/-
Portuguese Guinea ditto	3/1	3/3	36/-
African walnut	2/5	2/7	29/-
Australian ditto	5/6	5/10	65/-
English oak	4/3	4/6	50/-
Yugoslavian ditto	3/4	3/7	40/-
Burma and Siam Teak	5/-	5/9	65/-

DOORS.—STANDARD TYPE SOFTWOOD

Each in quantities 12 or more.
1 in finish, 4 horizontal panels moulded both sides 6ft 6in high.
2' 3" wide 41/-
2' 6" do. 42/3
2' 9" do. 44/6

FLUSH DOORS, 1 in thick, ply faced both sides, lipped edge.	2' 6" wide 59/-
All 6ft 6in high.	2' 9" do. 62/-
2' 3" wide 47 6	2in (ditto) all as above but in 3 panels.
2' 6" do. 49 6	2' 6" wide 55/9
	2' 9" do. 58 3

PANELLED DOORS : see B.S. 459—Part 1.
2in (ditto) all as above but in 2 panels.

FLUSH DOORS :	2' 6" wide 51 3
see B.S. 459—Part 2.	2' 9" do. 53/6

IRONMONGERY

	2in	3in	4in	5in	6in
Cast iron Butts, per pair	1 1	1 9	2 9	5 1	7 3
Hinges, spring, single action regulating, japanned, each	—	8/-	10/3	13/9	18/3
Do. but double action spring only, each	—	14 3	18 3	23 3	29 3
Do. blank only, each	—	8 9	12	17 9	21 6

CURRENT MARKET PRICES (Continued)

IRONMONGERY—Continued						
	12in	18in	24in	30in	36in	
Tee hinges (japanned), per pair	2/-	3/-	10/-	—	—	—
Do. but stronger, per pair	3/-	4/-	6/-	8/-	3/-	—
Hook and Ride hinges, per pair	—	—	13/-	4/-	16/-	3/-
BOLTS—each—	3in	4in	6in	8in	10in	12in
Cabinet, barrel, straight or necked	1/-	4/-	1/-	2/-	1/-	—
Square spring, with brass knob	1/4	1/-	2/-	1/-	—	—
Tower bolts	—	—	1.8	2.5	3.3	4/-
Barrel bolts	—	—	2.9	3.11	5.2	6.7
Add to Tower or Barrel bolts if necked	—	—	4d	3d	1d	1d
LOCKS—each—						
Rim lock, 2 lever, wrot case brass bolt and bushing	12/-	Brass furniture or Bakelite do.	3/6	3/3	2/4	
Mortice lock, 2 lever, bushed	12/-	Brass furniture or Bakelite do.	8/9	8/9	3/10	
Cylinder latches, japanned case	—	—	15/-	3/-	—	
Brass sash fastener	—	—	each	4/-	—	
Casement fasteners (malleable)	—	—	do.	1.6	—	
Do. stays (do.)	—	—	do.	2/-	—	
Axle pulleys (brass face, iron wheel)	—	—	do.	4.7	—	
Do. as last, but with brass wheel, 1in.	—	—	do.	5.9	—	
Sash line, No. 8 Anchor yellow label	—	—	per yard	1/-	—	

METAL GOODS

British rolled steel joists ex mills to basis sections on site (6in x 5in, 8in x 5in or 6in, and 10in or 12in x 6in)	£34.00 per ton
Extra cost over basis for following sections—	
9in or 18in x 7in, 14in x 5in, 15in x 5in, 14in or 15in or 16in or 18in x 6in, 20in x 6in, 20in x 7in, 10in or 12in or 14in or 18in x 8in	10/- per ton
5in x 4in, 7in x 3in, 13 x 5in	15/- do.
12in x 5in, 22in x 7in	20/- do.
6in x 4in, 7in or 8in or 9in x 4in, 10in x 5in	25/- do.
4in x 3in, 10in x 4in	30/- do.
5in x 2in, 5in x 3in	35/- do.
6in x 3in, 24in x 7in	40/- do.
3in x 3in	50/- do.
4in x 1in	65/- do.
3in x 1in, 4in x 1in	70/- do.
6 mild steel reinforcing rods ex mill d.d.	£35.10.0 do.
Extras per ton	
5in diameter in size	59.6 per ton
5in	72/- do.
6in	92/- do.
7in	132/- do.
8in	172/- do.
9in	192/- do.
Extras for length	
5ft to 3ft	7.6 do.
3ft to 2ft	15/- do.
2ft	22.6 do.
40ft to 45ft	15/- do.
45ft to 50ft	22.5 do.
Bolts and Nuts	90/- per cwt
Trench covering, including trays 1in deep and rebated frames, 9in wide	20.6 foot run
Do. but 12in wide	22/- do.
Do. but 14in wide	24/- do.
Do. but 18in wide	31.6 do.

METAL SUNDRIES

Cast iron pavement light filled with 4in x 3in glass lenses	32/- per ft super
5in wrought iron plate door in four panels with stiles and rails on both sides	50/- do.
20 gauge galvanized iron trunking and straps	5.6 do.
24 gauge galvanized Tallboy 6ft high 9in diameter with 9in x 12in base	57.6 each

CHAIN LINK FENCING—

In 25 yards lineal rolls inclusive of line wire, 2in mesh	Height in inches—
36	42
48	60
60	72
10½ wire gauge	98/- 114/3 130/9 163/1 195/9
12½ do.	69/- 80/6 92/- 114/9 137/9
14½ do.	49/3 57/6 65/9 82/- 98/6

DOUBLE SOOT DOORS AND FRAMES—

Fitted with brass turnbuckle and cast key	9in x 9in	12in x 9in	14in x 12in
—	19/-	28/-	48/6

SLIDING DOORS, GATES AND PARTITIONS—

Factory sliding doors in two leaves containing about 100 square feet with mild steel angle frames covered with 24 gauge corrugated galvanized sheeting and including hanging tubular track and gear complete	15.6 foot super
Factory entrance gates with mild steel frames clad with 2in mesh chain link complete	12/- do.
Steel partitioning, glazed (rough cast) and stove enamelled	18/6 do.

STEEL ROOF LIGHTS—

Lanterns with vertical sides, and hipped roof, glazed with 1in cast glass and lead flashed	14/- foot super
Skylights of similar construction (27ft super)	20/- do.

HIGH GRADE DOMESTIC BOILERS

Coke Fed. Performance 20 to 40 gallons raised from 40°F to 140°F per hour as under.

TYPE	£	s	d
20 gallons per hour	Plain	cast	iron black
15in wide, 23in high	finish	9	0 0
Ditto, in cream mottle finish including side jackets	13	0 0	
25 gallons per hour	In cast iron as before and base plate	11	10 0
19in wide, 22in high	Ditto in cream mottle with side jackets and base	16	17 0
40 gallons per hour	In cast iron, etc., as last ditto	18	5 0
22in wide, 23in high	Ditto in cream mottle all as last ditto	24	13 0

GAS, WATER AND STEAM TUBES

(From Standard List)

Internal	5in &	6in	7in	8in	9in	10in	11in	12in	13in	14in	15in
Diameter—	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in	in
Tubes per ft	4d	4½d	5d	6d	6½d	7d	1/1	1/4	1/10	1/10	1/10
Bends each	8d	9d	11d	12d	12½d	13d	3/2	5/2	—	—	—
Elbows, sq. do. 10d	11d	11d	11d	11d	11d	11d	2/2	2/2	4/3	4/3	4/3
Do., round do. 11d	11d	11d	11d	11d	11d	11d	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Tees do. 1—	1—	1—	1—	1—	1—	1—	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5
2—	2—	2—	2—	2—	2—	2—	1/10	1/10	1/10	1/10	1/10
Crosses do. 2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2
Backnuts do. 2d	2d	2d	3d	3d	3d	3d	5d	6d	8d	11d	1/1
Sockets do. 3d	3d	3d	4d	4d	5d	6d	8d	10d	13d	1/3	1/3
Sockets, dimin. do. 4d	4d	5d	6d	7d	9d	1/—	1/4	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2

PERCENTAGES ON OR OFF ABOVE

In quantity and in random lengths.	TUBE—
Class A (light)	—12½%
Class B (medium)	—2½%
Class C (heavy)	—12%
FITTINGS—	
Lightweight	+20%
Heavy	+28%
Black	Black
—76%	+35%
Do.	Do.
+18½%	+45%
Do.	Do.
+36%	Galvanized
Do.	Do.

RAINFALLER GOODS (Painted or Unpainted)

In consignments of 5 cwt. and over.

From Standard List.

Pipe:	2in	3in	4in	5in	6in
6ft. lengths	each	12/10	14/5	18/11	24/8
3ft. do.	do.	7/-	7/9	10/-	13/1
Shoe, ordinary	do.	2/7	3/10	5/7	9/5
Bend	do.	3/1	4/4	6/3	11/3
Branch, single	do.	4/6	6/7	9/3	14/7
Offset, 4½in	do.	3/9	5/3	7/9	12/11
Do. 9in	do.	4/11	6/6	9/8	15/3
H.R. gutter, 6ft length	do.	—	6/-	8/5	10/4
Angle or nozzle	do.	—	2/6	3/1	3/9
Stop end	do.	—	9d	1/1	1/6
					1/9
					Above plus 7½%

CURRENT MARKET

PRICES (Continued)

PLASTERING MATERIALS

Sand, lime, cement and various plasters are previously included under those heads—

Metal lathing (1" x 24G) (20 yards)	3/8 sq. yard
Plaster baseboard 1" (300 to 599 yards)	2/6 do.
Lath nails, galvanized	1/2 lb.
White glazed tiles (6" x 6" x 1")	{ 18/6 sq. yard
Do. rounded on one edge	small 22/6 do.
Do. on two adjoining edges	quantity 27/- do.

PLUMBER'S GOODS

4 lb. lead sheet (in 1-ton lots)	147/- per cwt
Lead water pipe in coils (do.)	148/3 do.
Plumber's solder	3/7 lb.
Copper tacks	6/9 do.

IRON SOIL AND WASTE PIPE. (5cwt lots and up)

each	2in	3in	3½in	4in
½in Medium pipe, 6 ft length	14/6	17/2	19/3	21/11
Ditto, 4ft length	10/5	12/2	13/7	15/5
Bends	5/4	6/6	8/1	9/1
Ditto, with oval door	17/4	18/6	21/1	24/7
Junction, single	6/6	9/8	11/3	13/3
Ditto, with oval door	18/6	21/8	24/3	26/3
Swan necks, 4½in	6/6	10/3	11/9	13/9
Ditto, 9in	8/8	11/9	13/9	16/1
Holderbar, 2½in projection	4/11	5/1	5/4	5/6
			Above plus	7½%

GALVANIZED CISTERNS, TANKS AND CYLINDERS—

(Less than four)
each gallons

CISTERNS—

Bends over tops and corner plates. Riveted or welded—	Nominal capacity
100	150
14 gauge	200
12 gauge	296/-
½in. plate	424/-
12 gauge	208/-
½in. plate	328/-
12 gauge	246/-
½in. plate	456/-
100	310/-
12 gauge	372/-
½in. plate	522/-

HOT WATER TANKS	20	25	30	40
Riveted and with handhole and ring.				
12 gauge	124/-	137/-	150/-	180/-
½in. plate	137/3	151/-	163/-	199/3

HOT WATER CYLINDERS	20	25	33	39
Riveted, with handhole and ring.				
12 gauge	160/-	176/-	189/-	204/6
½in. plate	177/-	195/6	214/-	226/6

PLUMBER'S BRASSWORK, etc.	Each
Boiler screws, single nut	1/7
Ditto, double nut	2/2
Cap and lining	1/2
Plumber's unions	2/7
Ball valves, screwed iron	15/-
Ditto, fly nut and union	16/3
Bib valves, crutch top	9/9
Ditto, but screwed boss	10/11
Stop valves, screwed iron	8/3
Ditto, screwed iron and union	9/5
Ditto, double union	10/7
Waste, plug chain and stay	—
Caps and screws	3/1
Sleeves, long	—
Ditto, short	—
Thimble	3/9
Full way gate valves, hot	21/6
pressed	30/-
Lead 7 lb P. trap	6/11
Ditto, S. trap	8/7
Lead 6 lb P. traps with 3 in seal	7/9
Ditto, but S. traps, ditto	9/7
Wire balloon guards, copper, 2in 3/1; 4in 3/4.	11/9
Ditto, galvanized iron, 2in 1/11; 4in 2/1.	—
Hair felt, 34in x 20in, 24 oz, 6/- sheet.	—
Boss white jointing compound, 2/- lb.	—
Gaskin, 1/5½ lb. Hemp, 7/3 lb.	—

COPPER TUBES—Extract from B.S. 659/1944—

Nominal bore	Internal work (semi-hard).			3 cwt. lots	
	Outside diameter	Gauge	Weight lb per ft	Price per lb	Price per ft
½in	0.596	19	0.27	58	15.66
¾in	0.846	19	0.39	56½	21.99
1in	1.112	18	0.62	54½	34.03
1½in	1.362	18	0.76	54½	41.23
2in	1.612	18	0.91	54½	49.37
2½in	2.128	17	1.40	53½	78.23

CAPILLARY TYPE CONNECTIONS—

Each	½in	¾in	1in	1½in	2in
Straight	1/9	2/5½	3/10½	5/4	6/10
Bends	4/7	5/7½	8/1	11/0½	17/4
Tees	4/2½	4/11	7/10½	11/7	16/5½
Brackets (Brass)	2/5	2/10	3/4	—	—

GLASS

	Per foot	superficial
English, flat drawn sheet glass cut to sizes in squares	24oz	26oz
	8½d.	11d.
Figured rolled and cathedral, white, cut to sizes, in squares (½in)	10d	Per foot super
Ditto, but in standard tints	1/5½	do.
½in Rolled, cut to size, in squares	10d	do.
½in or ¾in rough cast ditto	1/1	do.
½in ditto wired ditto	1/3½	do.
Georgian wired ditto	1/3½	do.
Fluted (No. 4) ditto	1/2½	do.
Reeded (narrow, broad, cross and major) ditto	1/2	do.
Reedlyte (narrow and broad) ditto	1/2	do.
Spotlite ditto	1/2	do.
½in. Calorex Cast ditto	1/3½	do.
Calorex Sheet (15oz.)	6/6	do.
ditto (21 oz.)	9/-	do.
Flashed Opal (15/18oz.)	3/10	do.
Pot Opal (15/18oz.)	3/9	do.

POLISHED PLATE GLASS (Tariff) Cut to sizes.

Ordinary substance ½in and ¾in thick.

Per Superficial foot. General Glazing

In plates not exceeding :	
2ft super in each	3/7
5ft ditto	4/5
45ft ditto (unless extra sizes)	5/1
100ft ditto (ditto)	5/6

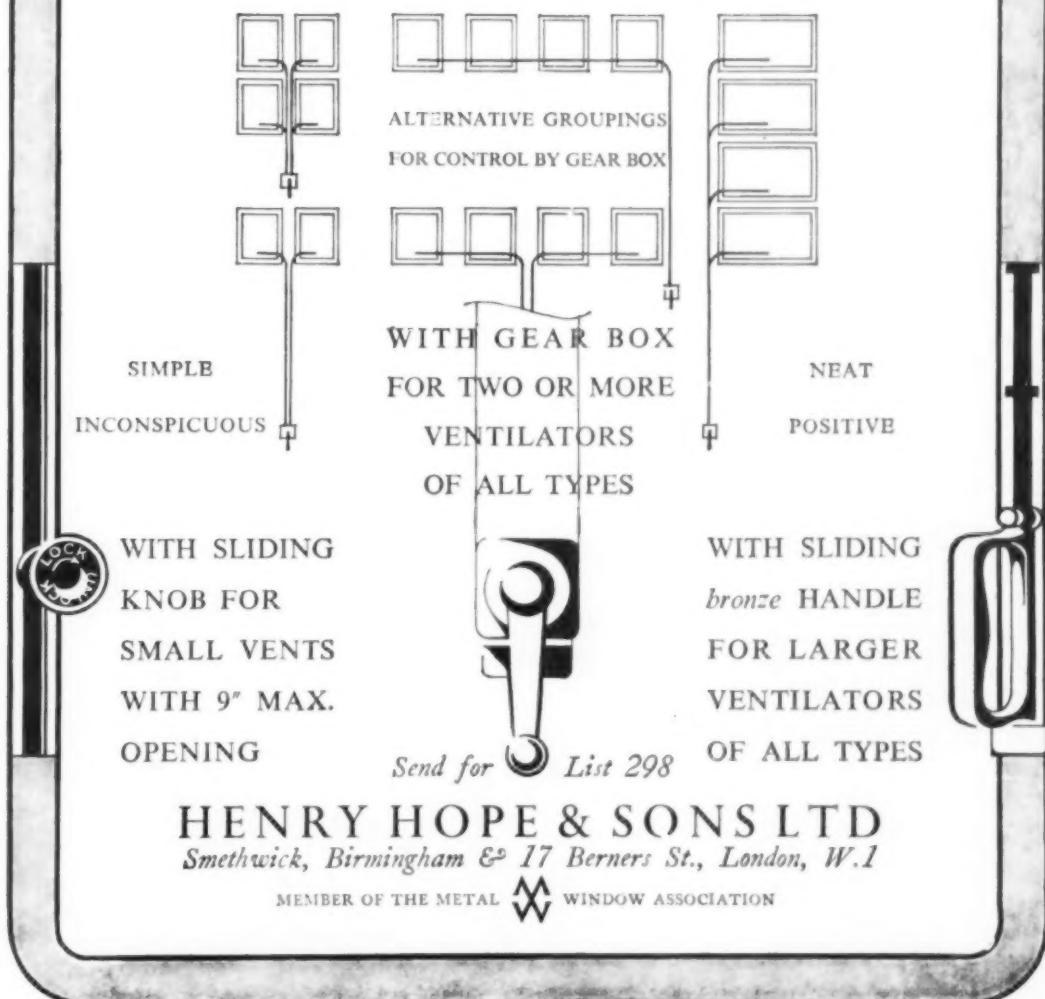
Extra sizes, i.e., Plates exceeding 100ft super or 96in high or 160in one way or 96in both ways at higher prices.

DECORATING MATERIAL

	Price	Unit
Aluminium Paint	37/6	Gallon
Distemper, ceiling	35/-	Cwt
Distemper, washable	120/-	do.
Enamel	60/-	Gallon
Gold Metallic Paint	86 6	do.
Heat Resisting Paint	50/-	do.
Japan, black	23/6	do.
Knotting	40/-	do.
Linseed Oil	14/9	do.
Boiled, ditto	15/3	do.
Proprietary Paints (good class)—		
Finishing	47/-	do.
Priming	50/-	do.
Undercoat	53/-	do.
Paperhanger's Paste	34/6	Cwt
Petrifying liquid	8/9	Gallon
Putty	51/-	Cwt
Size	9/3	Firkin
Terebine	16/-	Gallon
Turpentine substitute	6 3	do.
Varnish, oak, copal inside use	33/-	do.
Ditto, ditto, outside use	38/-	do.
Ditto, white, eggshell, flat	44/6	do.
White lead mixed paint	62/-	do.
White lead	178/-	Cwt
Whiting	12/6	do.

HOPE'S CABLE CONTROL WINDOW GEAR

PATENT APPLIED FOR



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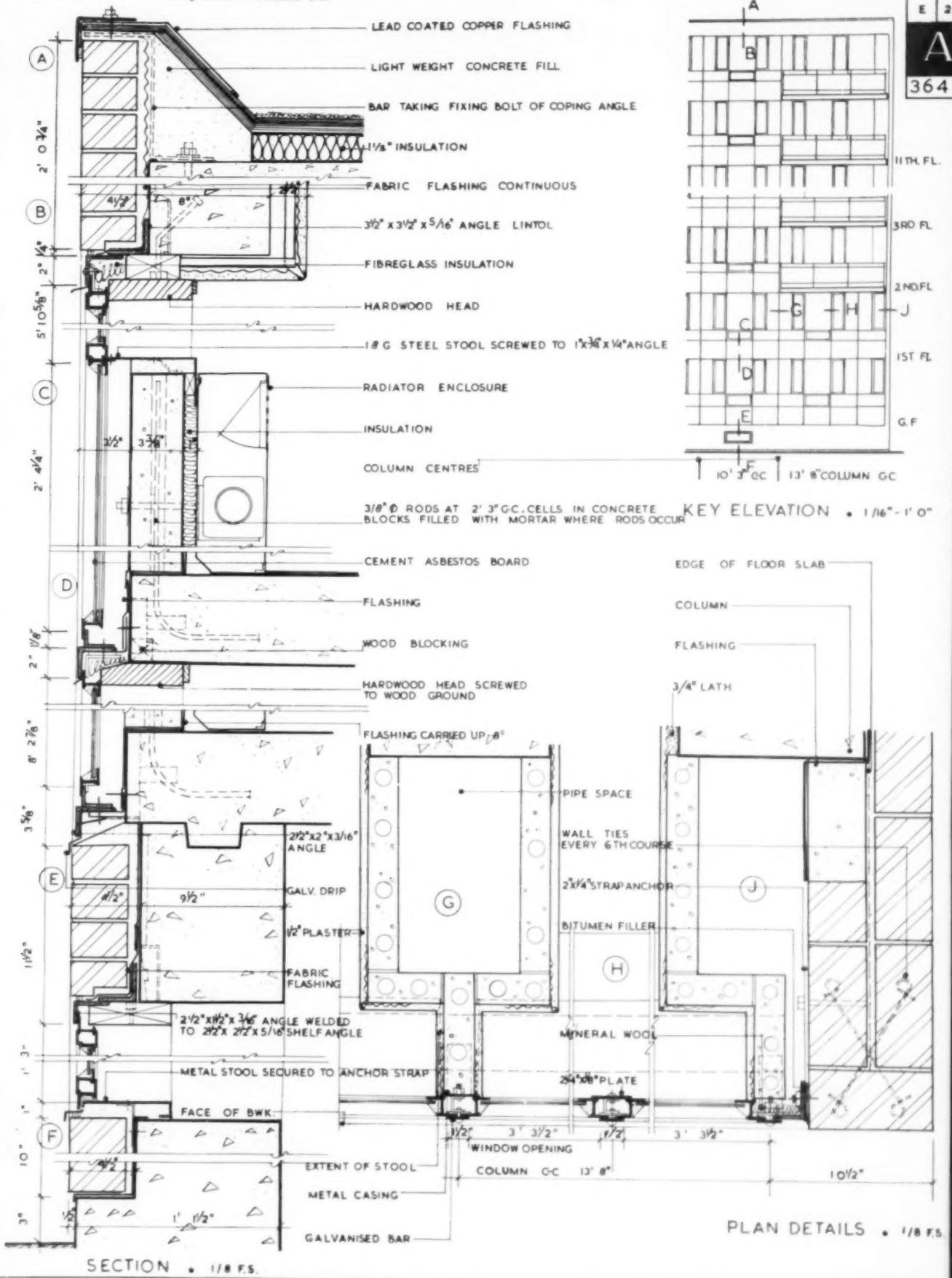
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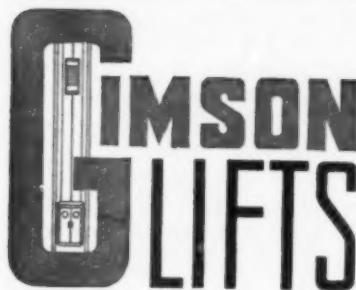
Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

CONTRACT NEWS •

OPEN

BUILDING

address it is the same as the locality given in the heading (c) deposit (d) last date of application (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked * are given in the advertisement section.



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BRAINTREE AND BOCKING U.C. (a) Erection of 4 scullery additions in Cressing Road, 2 in Hay Lane, and 2 in Bartram Avenue, together with all ancillary works. (b) Council's Surveyor, Town Hall, Braintree. (c) Ign. (e) January 9.

BURY B.C. (a) Erection of a messroom, etc., at Whitehead Recreation Ground. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) Ign. (e) January 7.

CASTLE WARD R.C. (a) Erection of a works depot at Ponteland. (b) G. E. Dimmack, 7 North Road, Ponteland. (c) 2gns. (e) January 21.

CHERTSEY U.C. (a) Erection of workshop at the Compressor Station, Pyrcroft Road, including the dismantling of existing building. (b) Council's Engineer, Council Offices. (c) Ign. (e) January 6.

COLNE VALLEY SEWERAGE BOARD. (a) Erection of one house together with site works adjoining the Board's Juniper Hill Pumping Station, Harefield Road, Rickmansworth. (b) General Manager, Maple Lodge, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth. (e) January 19.

CORNWALL C.C. (a) Erection of extensions to the Falmouth grammar school for boys. (b) Messrs. Cowell, Drewitt and Wheatley, Lloyds Bank Chambers, Penzance. (c) Ign. (e) January 12.

CORNWALL C.C. (a) Erection of extensions to the Fowey primary girls' school. (b) Messrs. Taylor and Crowther, 66 Lemon Street, Truro. (c) Ign. (e) January 12.

CREWE B.C. (a) Contract No. 534. Erection and completion of a crematorium in the Crewe Cemetery. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings. (c) 2gns. (e) January 12.

CROOK AND WILLINGTON U.C. (a) Erection of 4 shops and 12 flats on the Low Willington site. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, "Glenholme," Crook, Co. Durham. (d) January 7.

CUMBERLAND EDUCATION COMMITTEE. (a) Carrying out alterations and additions to provide a new classroom and sanitary accommodation at Carleton Controlled School, nr. Carlisle. (b) County Architect, 15 Portland Square, Carlisle. (e) January 16.

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GWYNEDD POLICE AUTHORITY. (a) Erection of three pairs of houses at Trinity Avenue, Llandudno. (b) County Architect, County Offices, Caernarvon. (c) 2gns. (e) January 10.

LEICESTER C.C. (a) Erection of new sanitary block at Diseworth C.E. School. (b) County Architect, 123 London Road. (c) 2gns. (e) January 14.

LINCOLN C.C.—PARTS OF KEST-EVEN. (a) Erection of two farm houses and two sets of farm buildings, together with roads, drains, water services, etc., at Bourne (Dyke) estate. (b) County Land Agent, County Offices, Sleaford. (c) January 9.

LINCOLN C.C.—PARTS OF KEST-EVEN. (a) Provision of new storage accommodation at the fire brigade headquarters by the adaptation of the existing office block and the building of new office accommodation, at Grantham. (b) County Architect, County Offices, Sleaford. (c) January 19.

LONDON—WALTHAMSTOW B.C. (a) Erection of (1) two flats in a two-storey block on a site in Salop Road, E.17, (2) six flats in a three-storey block on a site in Blackhorse Lane, Lancaster Road, E.17, and (3) twelve flats in a three-storey block on a site at the junction of Lea Bridge Road, Shernhall Street, E.17. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall, Walthamstow, E.17. (c) 2gns for each scheme. (e) January 17.

MITCHAM B.C. (a) Erection of one block of 12 flats at the junction of Inglemere Road and London Road. (b) Deputy Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (d) January 4, January 28.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE C.C. (a) Erection of a new fire station at Machynlleth. (b) Council's Clerk, County Offices, Welshpool. (e) January 9.

N. IRELAND — GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND (a) Erection of two cottages at Newcastle Forestry Centre, Co. Down. (b) Ministry of Finance (Room 103), Law Courts Building, May Street, Belfast. (c) £2. (e) January 9.

N. IRELAND — NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY BOARD. (a) Erection of offices, garages and storage accommodation, comprising two new buildings, site pavings and ancillary works, at Taylor's Avenue, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim. (b) Messrs. W. H. Stephens and Sons, 13 Donegall Square North, Belfast. (c) 5gns. (e) January 30.

N. IRELAND — NORTHERN IRELAND HOSPITALS AUTHORITY. (a) Erection of a new nurses' home at St. Luke's Hospital, Armagh. (b) Messrs. W. H. Stephens and Sons, 13 Donegall Square North, Belfast. (c) £5. (e) January 14.

N. IRELAND — TYRONE. (a) Erection and completion of a new primary school and school meals servery incorporated in main building at Fintona, for the Very Rev. L. Gilmartin, Fintona, and

the Tyrone Education Committee, Education Offices, Omagh. (b) Messrs. William J. Doherty and Co., 12 Castle Street, Derry, or P. J. Davidson, 16 High Street, Belfast. (c) 5gns. (e) January 12.

READING B.C. (a) Erection of a public convenience in Prospect Park. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall. (c) January 11.

ST. AUSTELL U.C. (a) Erection of a beach cafe in concrete blockwork, reinforced concrete foundations, floor and roof, at Par Beach. (b) Council's Engineer, Municipal Offices. (c) 2gns. (e) January 9.

SADDLEWORTH U.C. (a) Erection of 12 houses at Carr Lane, Greenfield. (b) P. Howard, 88 Mosley Street, Manchester 2. (c) 2gns. (e) January 16.

SCOTLAND — BATHGATE BURGH COUNCIL. (a) Erection of 34 houses in 14 blocks at Kirton and Boghall. All or separate trades. (b) Town Clerk, Burgh Chambers, 32 Hopetoun Street, immediately.

SHEFFIELD C.C. (a) Erection of (1) 8 shops with maisonettes over and 1 single storey multiple shop at Greenhill-Bradway estate, and (2) 1 block of 5 single-storey shops and 1 block of 5 lock-up garages at Gleadless Valley estate. (b) City Architect, Town Hall. (c) £2 each contract. (e) January 18.

SUNDERLAND B.C. (a) Erection of Farringdon primary junior and infants' school on a site on the Farringdon estate, and extensions to the College of Art, Backhouse Park. (b) Borough Architect, Grange House, Stockton Road. (c) 2gns. (e) January 13.

THIRSK R.C. (a) Erection of a mortuary building in Masonic Lane, Castlegarth. (b) Messrs. Needham, Thorpe and White, 5 High Petergate, York. (c) 2gns. (e) January 14.

WESTMORLAND C.C. (a) Erection of new divisional police headquarters, comprising two-storey office block, single-storey cell block, garages, and other ancillary accommodation at County Hall, Kendal. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Kendal. (c) 2gns. (d) December 31.

WINCHESTER C.C. (a) Erection of a block of 17 dwellings for old people and a warden's house on Stanmore estate. (b) Messrs. A. S. Wilson and Partners, 8 Storey's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1. (c) 2gns, by cheque, payable to Council. (d) January 7.

WINCHESTER C.C. (a) Erection of 80 flats and maisonettes in two blocks on Weekes Manor estate. (b) Messrs. A. S. Wilson and Partners, 8 Storey's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1. (c) 2gns, by cheque, payable to Council. (d) January 7.

YORK C.C. (a) Erection and completion of proposed vehicle gallery at the Debtors' Prison. (b) City Architect, 8 St. Leonard's Place. (e) January 10.

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MORTLAKE, SURREY. (1) Rebuilding St. Mary Magdalen R.C. School. (3) W. H. Gaze and Sons Ltd., High Street, Kingston on Thames.

LONDON E.C. (1) Rebuilding warehouse for S. T. L. Motor Cycle Accessories Ltd. (2) Worship Street. (3) W. R. Oldham Ltd., 242, Perry Hill, London, S.E.6. (4) £57,000.

WEST MOLESEY, SURREY. (1) Erection of a factory for Pan Books Ltd. (3) Holland and Hannen and Cubitts Ltd., 1, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1.

ROCHDALE. (1) Hotel for Rochdale and Manor Brewery, Rochdale. (2) Ings Lane, etc. (3) T. Hayes and Co., 10, Clegg Street, Oldham, Lancs.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. (1) 280 flats. (2) Kenton North Estates. (3) Geo. Wimpey and Co. Ltd., Orchard House, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

HAMPSHIRE C.C. (1) Erection of grammar school. (2) Gosport. (3) Hawkins Bros. (Gosport) Ltd., Westfield Road, Gosport, Hants.

SWANSEA. (1) Church and hall, for Rev. J. E. G. Hughes. (3) E. Williams (Contractors) Ltd., Richardson Road, Swansea.

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION. (1) Infants' school. (2) Hylton Castle Estate. (3) Tate and Holmes Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne. (4) £39,870.

GATESHEAD B.C. (1) 208 houses and 141 houses. (2) Lobjey Hill and Leam Lane. (3) William Leech (Builders) Ltd., 7-8 St. James' Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (1) 120 houses. (2) The Causeway. (3) E. Jeffcock (Contractors) Ltd., Newburn Chambers, New Bridge Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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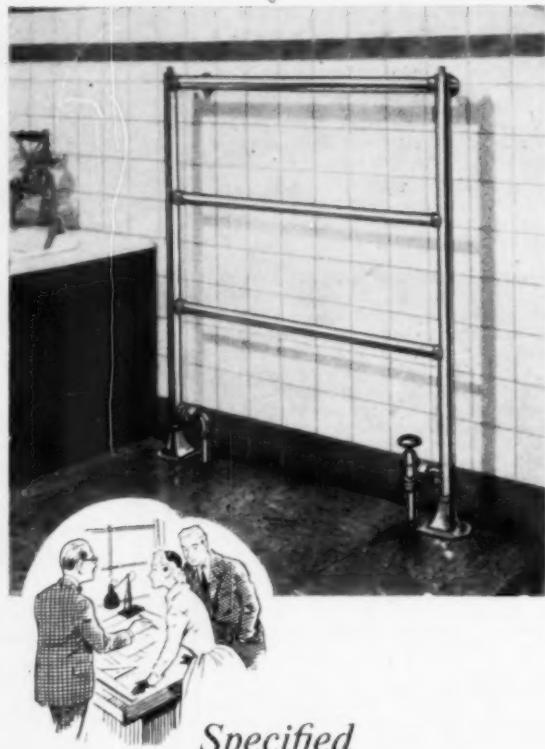
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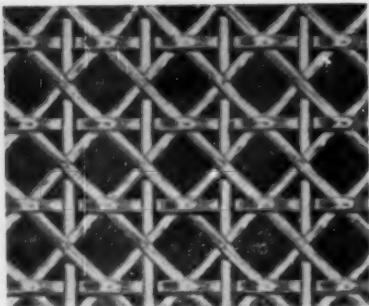
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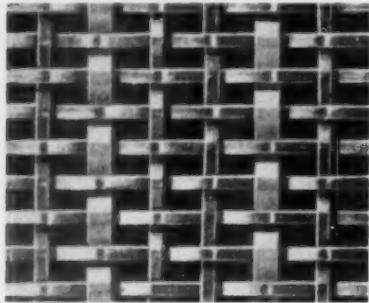
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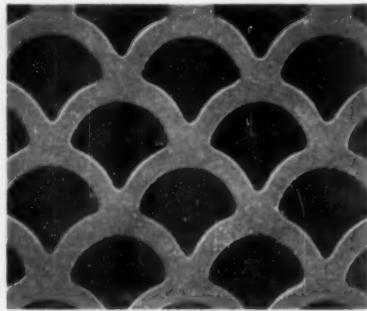
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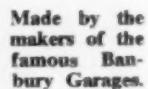
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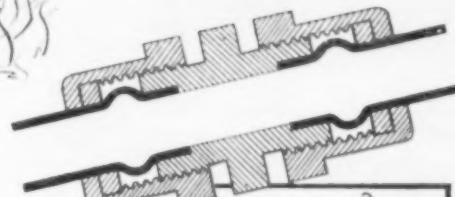
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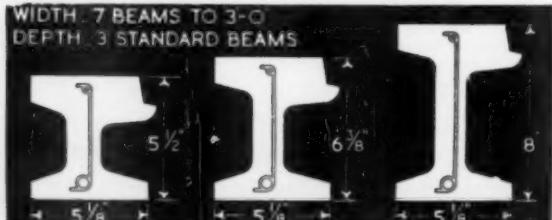
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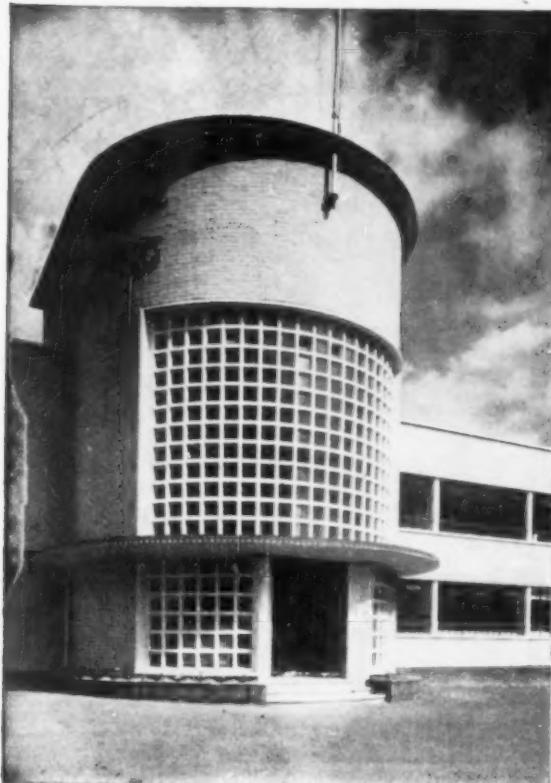
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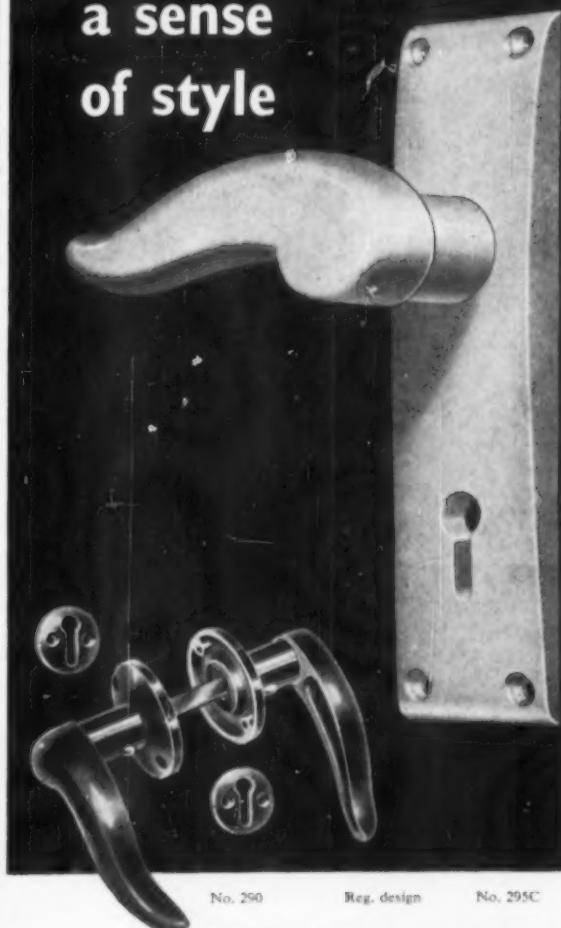
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Further details and application forms may be obtained from S. M. Holloway, A.R.B.A., County Architect, County Buildings, Huntingdon, to whom completed application forms should be forwarded by Saturday, 14th January 1956.

A. C. AYLWARD,
Clerk of the County Council.

County Buildings,
Huntingdon. [1879]

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APPOINTMENTS—contd.

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G. H. EMLYN JONES,
Town Clerk.

15th December, 1955. [1883]

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L. GODDARD SMALLEY,
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Town Hall,
WOKINGHAM, Berks.
December 16th, 1955. [1872]

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CLIFFORD HEYWORTH,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Richmond, Surrey.
14th December, 1955.

[1871]

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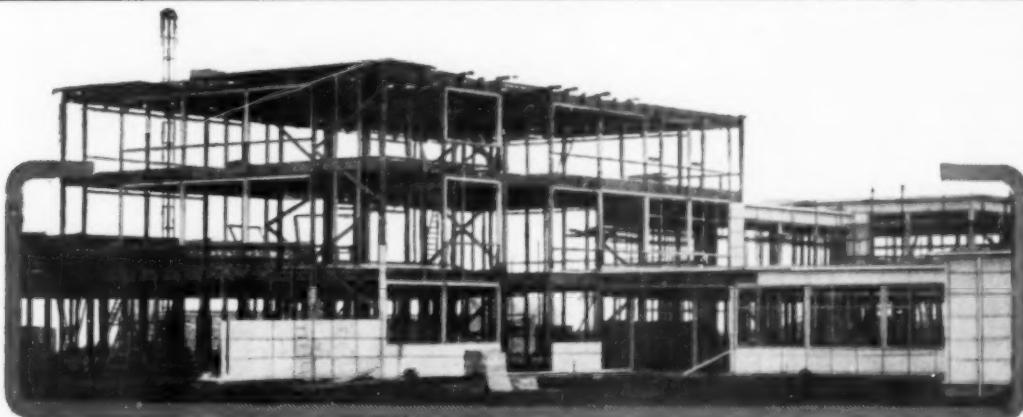
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British Rubber Development Board	General Electric Co. Ltd., The	Newman, Wm., & Sons Ltd.		
British Titan Products Co. Ltd.	Gibson, Arthur L., & Co. Ltd.	Newsum, H., Sons & Co. Ltd.		
Brockhouse Steel Structures Ltd.	Gimson & Co. (Leicester) Ltd.	Noelite Ltd.		
Bryce White & Co. Ltd.	Gilkistan, J., & Co. Ltd.	Norrid, Ltd.		
Burn Bros. (London)	Grahambton Iron Co. Ltd.	Norris, C. W., Ltd.		
Caffers & Co. Ltd.	Grainge-Cotton Iron Co.	Northarc Organisation, The		
Callow Rock Lime Co. Ltd., The	Grawood Flooring Co. Ltd.	Notroff Steel Equipment (London) Ltd.		
Carborundum Ltd.	Grove, J. W., & Co. Ltd.	Odini, A. A., & Co. Ltd.		
Carlisle Plaster & Cement Co. Ltd.	Greenwood's & Airvac Ventilating Co. Ltd.	Ordnance Survey, The		
Carter & Co. Ltd.	Gulf Radiators Ltd.	Ornamental Gate Co.		
Canada, Government of	Hale & Hale Ltd.	Parker, Winder & Aurchur Ltd.		
Cannon, W. G., & Sons Ltd.	Hall, Harding Ltd.	Parmiter, Hope & Suddon Ltd.		
Cantis Switches Ltd.	Hall, J. E. Ltd.	Partride Wilson & Co. Ltd.		
C. & P. Development Ltd.	Hall & Kay Ltd.	Patent Glazing Conference, The Penfold Fencing & Engineering Ltd.		
Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd., The	Hammer, G. M., & Co. Ltd.	Permaforce Ltd.		
Celotex Ltd.	Hammill Brick Co.	Permanite Ltd.		
Cement Marketing Co. Ltd.	Hangers Paints Ltd.	Petradeine Ltd.		
Central Electricity Authority	Harries Electromotives Ltd.	Philips Electrical Ltd.		
Chamberlin Weatherstrips Ltd.	Harvey, G. A., & Co. Ltd.	Phoenix Rubber Co. Ltd.		
Chase Products Engineering Ltd.	Haskins	Phoenix Timber Co. Ltd., The "Photographs of the Year"		
Chatwood Safe & Engineering Co. Ltd.	Hatherware Ltd.	Pickering's Ltd.		
Cheetham, A. J., Ltd.	Henley's W. T. Telegraph Works Co. Ltd.	Pilkington Bros. Ltd.		
Cheetham, H. & Co.	Hewitt, F. & D. M., Ltd.	Pilkington Tiles Ltd.		
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Churchouse, C. M., Ltd.	Hilger & Watts Ltd.	Portable Concrete Buildings Ltd.	26	
Clarke, Eillard Engineering Co. Ltd.	Hill, Adam, E., & Co. Ltd.	Potter, F. W., & Soar, Ltd.	30	
Claughton Bros. Ltd.	Hills, F., & Sons Ltd.	Proctor Bros. (Wireworks) Ltd.	20	
Clement Bros. Haslemere Ltd.	Hills (West Bromwich) Ltd.	Protin Ltd.	23	
Clyde Structural Iron Co. Ltd.	Holland & Hannon and Cubitts Ltd.	Purimachos Ltd.		
Coal Utilisation Council	Holophane Ltd.	Pyronemax Ltd.		
Cothurst Symons & Co. Ltd.	Holophast Ltd.	Radiation Group Sales Ltd.		
Compactom Ltd.	Home Fitting (G.B.)	Raines & Porter Ltd.		
	Honeywell-Brown Ltd.	Rawlings Bros. Ltd.		
	Hope, Henry, & Sons Ltd.	Reliable Plywood Co. Ltd.		
	H.M. Stationery Office	Remploy Ltd.		
	Hotchkiss Engineers Ltd.	Reparations-Dreyfus Ltd.		
		Reynolds, H. L., Ltd.		

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BEVIN COURT

Architects: Messrs. Skinner,
Bailey & Lubetkin, A.R.I.B.A.

**Bradfords supplied the whole of the
reinforced wall slabs* for this building**

* With exposed aggregate

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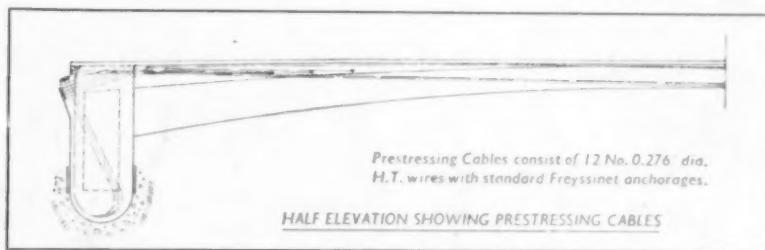
THE
STORY OF
FLANNERY
BRIDGE
CO. GALWAY
IRELAND

Designed for the Galway County Council in conjunction with Mr. Nicholas O'Dwyer, Consulting Engineer, of Dublin to carry standard Ministry of Transport Loading for main highways. Contractors: Roe Quarry Co. Ltd.

Prestressing

In the construction of the new prestressed concrete bridge across the Kilkerrin Estuary, the "Freyssinet" system of post tensioning was used, each cable consisting of 12 0.276 in. dia. wires, tensioned by hydraulic jacks to provide a compressive force in the concrete of between 40 and 45 tons per cable. The cables were sheathed before being placed in the concrete with 19 gauge seam

welded "Tru-wel" tubing by Messrs. Tube Products Ltd. In all, 162 cables were used having a total length of 11,600 ft. The total force induced into the concrete by all the cables was approximately 10,000 tons and the maximum compressive stress in the concrete which occurs in the bottom of the ribs at the centre of the bridge under dead load conditions, is approximately 2,400 lb sq. in. The outline drawing shows the general arrangement of the cable profiles.



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